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A FISHERMAN PUBLICATION

The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

April 23rd, 1981 ★ Volume 16, Number 16 ★ 16th Year of Publishing ★ SEVENTY-CENTS

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The Long Island FISHERMAN

The Largest Weekly Sportfishing Magazine in the United States!

Volume 16, Number 16 **April 23rd, 1981**

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About the Cover—

The Long Island Fisherman, in cooperation with the Long Island State Park Commission, will be hosting a fishing clinic for all youngsters 16 years of age and under at Heckscher State Park on Saturday, May 2. See page 2 for details.

COMING NEXT WEEK: **GREAT SOUTH BAY WEAKS**

Richard Reina — PUBLISHER
Al Ristori — ASSOCIATE EDITOR
Pete Barrett — CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
W.A. Muller — MANAGING EDITOR
Stu Miller — ADVERTISING MANAGER
Tim Coleman — CONTRIBUTING EDITOR
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Come to the Annual Blessing of the Fleet at Captree State Park on Saturday, April 25, 1981 with a rain date on Sunday, April 26, 1981.

Enjoy free boat rides on our fleet of fishing boats, dock drawings, prizes, exhibits and a demonstration on how to cook local fish.

Activities will begin at one o'clock with the Babylon High School Band and live radio coverage aired by WGLI.

The parade of colorfully decorated boats will sail into Captree Boat Basin to be blessed at 3:15 p.m.

Join us for a free and fun-filled day for the whole family at Captree, located at the southern-most point of Robert Moses Causeway.

STRIPED BASS FUNDING IN JEOPARDY?

Indications are that the Reagan Administration's proposed spending cuts will adversely affect many fisheries research and management programs. Of particular concern to striped bass fishermen are those projects funded through the Anadromous Fish Conservation Act. Since 1965 this Act and subsequent amendments, have provided the necessary funding for cooperative research and management projects relating to anadromous species, by Federal and State agencies. Such funds have enabled researchers to undertake striped bass stocking programs in Gulf Coast States, where today significant numbers of stripers are being taken in coastal streams where they had not been caught for many years.

During 1979, the U.S. Congress amended this Act (Public Law 96-118) which authorized the sum of $15 million in Fiscal Year 1982 for Anadromous Fish programs. In addition, the sum of $4.75 million was authorized for an Emergency Striped Bass Study (Chafee bill), with $1.0 million for FY80, $1.75 for FY81, and $2.0 for FY 82.

The purpose of the Emergency Study is to focus on enhancing knowledge about the dwindling striped bass resource, and most importantly, those factors harmful to it. Denial of FY82 funds translates into a loss of over 42% of the total authorization, and a similar percentage in terms of knowledge needed but not gained.

All concerned parties are urged to write to their representatives in Washington, asking them to do all that they can to retain funding authorizations during FY82 for these needed programs.

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Letters to Congressmen may be addressed to the House of Representatives, Wash., D.C. 20515. Letters should also be sent to James Watt, Secretary, U.S. Department of the Interior, Wash., D.C. 20240.

U.S. PARK POLICE PROVIDE SPECIAL SERVICE TO BOATMEN

Personnel from the United States Park Police, Marine Patrol Unit, are available to indoctrinate boaters to the local and Federal requirements for small boats. They are providing this service so boaters can prepare, before the season is upon us, for a safe and enjoyable boating season. Officer Noel P. Inzerille will offer this two-hour brief on regulations and safe boating practices at either general club meetings or special gatherings, provided the request for this service allows sufficient time to be fitted to his schedule.

Subject matter included in the brief will cover most state and Federal regulations on required equi-ment, sanitation regulations, and the new requirements for visual distress signals. He will include general information on rules of the road, fishing regulations, and regulations pertinent to vessel operation and fishing within the waters of Gateway National Recreation area. You may be interested also in learning exactly who the United States Park Police are and where they came from, and he will, of course, avail himself to questions from those in attendance.

For further information on this service, feel free to contact either Officer Inzerille or Sgt. W.M. Hall at (212) 630-0320 or send requests to: Officer Noel P. Inzerille, U.S. Park Police, Marine Unit, 275 Floyd Bennett Field, Brooklyn, New York 11234.

GATEWAY STRIPER CLUB HEADING FOR QUINCY

The Gateway Striper Club, which meets the second Thursday of each month in Building 149 at Fort Tilden in Belle Harbor, Queens, is organizing a flounder trip to Quincy, Massachusetts on May 1st and 2nd. This exciting trip costs $45 per person and covers bus fare, motor boats and a flat of excellent worms. Many regulars bring their own chum; some buy mussels in Quincy. The bus will leave Fort Tilden at 9PM on Friday, May 1st and will return there on Saturday evening about the same time. To arrange reservations or for details, call Rick Cooper, (212) 757-9695 days or at (212) 520-9119 after 7PM.

NEW SURF ACCESS

The Long Island Fisherman is pleased to announce that at the April 13, 1981 meeting of the Surf Fishing Advisory Council and the Long Island State Parks and Recreation Commission, it was agreed to open additional access at Robert Moses Field 4.

Parking Field 4 will be open to surf fishermen with a night fishing permit from April 18, 1981 to May 21, 1981, between sunrise and sunset. Readers will recall that it was agreed last year that this field would be open for fishing during daylight hours between October 1st and December 31st. The recent agreement thus opens this area for an additional period in the spring.

Look for a more complete discussion of this topic in an upcoming editorial.

10TH ANNUAL SHARK TAG TOURNAMENT TO AID RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

The Montauk Marine Basin's Tenth Annual Shark Tag Tournament, a major big game sport fishing contest out of this gateway port, will be held July 18 and 19. In addition to the ongoing scientific work that has become traditional at the Tournament, the sponsor will continue funding the Montauk Marine Basin Research Scholarship program which was inaugurated last year.

The first scholarship of $1,000 was awarded recently to Ms. Mary C. Gibbons, a graduate student conducting research to earn a doctoral degree at the Marine Sciences Research Center at the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Ms. Gibbons, who earned her Master's degree at the University of Delaware, will use the funds to expand her study of factors influencing the predation of

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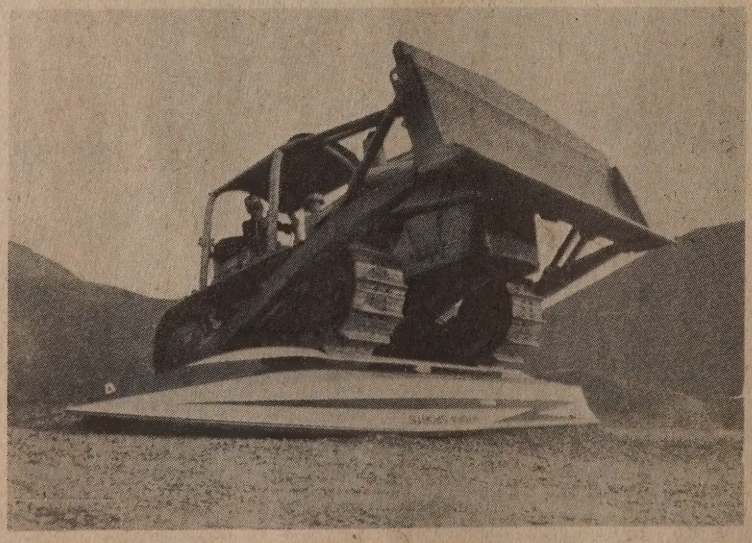

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A PLEA TO THE READERS OF THIS PUBLICATION BY L.D. FIGURELLI, PRES. NRPA

On February 26, 1981 we of the Natural Resources Protective Association of Staten Island, Inc. received a letter from New York Congressman Guy Molinari requesting our assistance in the opposing of a garbage-coal fueled electric power plant to be constructed on Staten Island. The proposed construction of this plant would be on the Arthur Kill waterway which empties directly into Raritan Bay.

For the past two years, through the efforts of the NRPA and other concerned sport fishing, saltwater related sportsmen and environmental organizations, the fishing and the water quality have improved tremendously. This can be verified by the news reports of our local newspapers, magazines and scientific research groups.

The siting of this power plant is in violation of all our state, Federal and local laws. I have attended public hearings and voiced the objections of the NRPA, along with Congressman Molinari and other prominent elected officials. It is believed by all that the proposed power facility by PASNY is unnecessary and unjustified.

To go into details of the dangers involved would be foolish on my part. I will leave this to qualified marine scientists who have already testified to the havoc this plant would render to the marine environment of Raritan Bay and the Arthur Kill area.

There are three major objections to the siting of this plant in the highly populated Metropolitan Area:

1. Twenty-nine million gallons of chlorinated water will be used to cool the generators daily. This heated, chlorinated water will be discharged into the Arthur Kill and eventually into Raritan Bay. This alone would destroy the ecological balance of the Bay.

2. The pollutant air emissions from both the water-cooling towers and the garbage, coal burning furnace stacks will further pollute the already highly polluted air we are now breathing in the area. The creation of acid rain by the burning of coal will cover our area, creating respiratory disease and cancer-related deaths not only to fish and wildlife, but to humans as well.

3. The end result will be the destruction of the sport fishing, recreational sports-related industries, and the newly developed shellfishing industry in Raritan Bay.

I am pleading to all sport fishermen and women of this area to oppose the construction of this power plant, in defense of our right to live, breathe, work and play in a healthy livable environment.

Anyone wishing to sign a petition opposing this power plant, please call or write to : Lou Figurelli, Pres,. NRPA, P.O. Box 306, Staten Island, New York 10308 or call (212) 967-0410.

New York Residents
Sportfisherman
Saltwater Sports

New Jersey Residents
Sportfishman
Saltwater Sports

We Need Your Help!

Any Person sending in 100 signed, completed petitions to the N.R.P.A. will receive a life time membership card for their help.

Anyone who wishes to become a member for life, send $5.00 to the N.R.P.A., P.O. Box 306, Staten Island, N.Y. 10308.

Thank You for Your Help
Sincerely,

Lou Figurelli

Lou Figurelli, Pres.

Petition Petition Petition

Stop The Power Plant!

"Citizens' Committee of 100,000"
169 Nugent Street
Staten Island, New York 10305
Chairman: William J. Counihan

My dear Governor Carey:

I am signing this petition as a resident of_____and as a registered member of_____which is a part of the Citizens Committee of 100,000, in opposition to the proposed construction of a garbage, coal-burning power plant by PASNY in Staten Island or anywhere within the highly populated Metropolitan Area of New York City.

In your re-election bid of 1978 you pledged to the residents of Staten Island "THE POWER PLANT WOULD NOT BE BUILT IN STATEN ISLAND." Unless you honor this pledge, we of the NRPA will join the Citizens Committee of 100,000 in voting against your re-election, should you decide to run again for Governor of New York or any other public office.

The unjustified, potentially dangerous power plant would seriously alter and ultimately destroy, the sportfishing, shellfishing, the recreational saltwater sports-related industries and activities, and upset the ecological balance of the marine environment of Raritan Bay and the other bodies of water which surround Staten Island and New York City.

We in Staten Island, New York City and all the residents in the surrounding areas will stand united in our opposition to the proposed PASNY power plant in Staten Island, in defense of our rights as residents and taxpayers to live, breathe, work and play in a healthy, livable environment.

Sincerely Yours,

_____
(signature)

_____
(Print Name)

_____
(Street Address)

_____
(City State Zip Code)

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTIVE ASSN. OF S.I.N.Y.

NATURAL RESOURCES PROTECTIVE ASSN.
OF STATEN ISLAND, INC.
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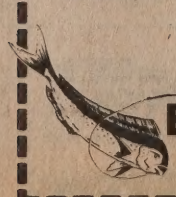

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juvenile hard clams by certain species of crabs in Great South Bay's rich clam beds.

The selection of the scholarship winner from a list of graduate student applicants was by Carl Darenberg, Jr, president of the Marine Basin, and a committee of University personnel. The award program, financed from tournament entry fees of $150 per boat, is designed to aid in research on problems affecting Long Island's coastal waters, with the potential for yielding scientific and societal benefits.

Sport fishermen from the entire Eastern Seaboard and from foreign countries, spurred by memories of an unusual number of huge mako sharks caught in last year's tournament, already are signing up for the mid-July contest.

Scientists from the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) will again use specimens from the tag-release project to gain valuable data in shark biological and behavior research programs. More than 1,000 sharks of various species have been tagged and released by deep-sea anglers participating in the Montauk tournaments.

The Shark Tag Tournament at Montauk was a pioneer in the tagging and releasing of the bulk of a tournament catch, as opposed to the indiscriminate and massive kill tournaments. Last year, it adopted the motto, "Tag—Not Bag" as a theme for its contest.

Coordinated by radio contact between the boat captains and tournament committee boats, only the potential winners in each category are boated and brought in to shore; the remainder are recorded, tagged and released from alongside the boats.

With the increasing public interest in sharks, both the numbers of participants and spectators have grown dramatically in recent years at the tournament. The fleet of sleek fishing boats has increased from the initial 23 ten years ago to last year's 90 craft ranging from 25 footers to powerful 60' sportfisher boats. More than 100 are expected to fish the tournament this year.

The spectators witness the colorful parade of returning craft with their potential trophy sharks, the weigh-in, and the subsequent dissection of the animals by Jack Casey and his team of veteran shark researchers from the NMFS biological station and laboratory at Narragansett, Rhode Island.

The scientists are conducting a series of continuing research programs designed to unravel mysteries of the shark.

New Products

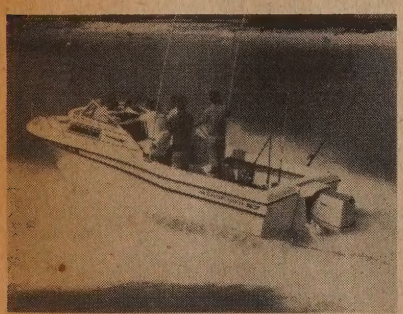
CORTLAND OFFERS 1ST IGFA FRESHWATER BRAIDED LINE

Add RECORD braided freshwater line to the growing number of IGFA Class lines now available from the Cortland Line Co. Record is the first braided line that fully meets the rigid IGFA freshwater qualifications.

The International Game Fish Association only recently began recognizing freshwater records which must be taken on line with a wet strength that does not exceed specified tests.

Cortland IGFA Class RECORD is designed for casting, spinning and trolling. It is made of nylon yarn braided to a small diameter so reel capacity is maximized and air and water resistance is minimized. The new line is put up on two connected 100 meter spools and on a single bulk spool of 1000 meters.

Cortland Line also manufactures IGFA Class Tournament monofilament, Micron Braided and Dacron Braided lines for salt and freshwater fishing.



"FOURTH" MARINE POWER SYSTEM

Outboard Marine Corporation has unveiled another model of its OMC Sea Drive marine power system, the unique two-stroke unit that mounts to the boat on an innovative transom bracket. The new system has been called the "fourth" marine power system, after outboards, inboards, and inboard-outboards. The newest model of the OMC Sea Drive, a V6, is called the "2.5," a reference to its displacement by litre. OMC Stern Drive, which will sell the power system, has also announced a "2.6" version and a "1.6" model.

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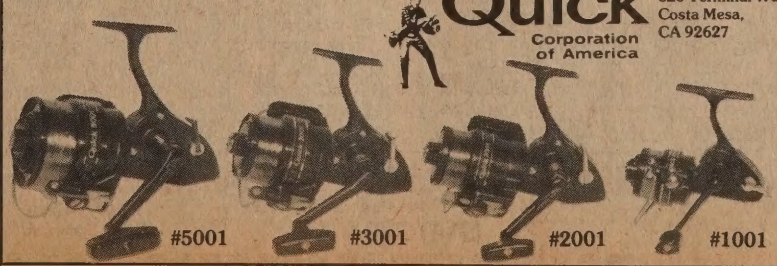


#5001 #3001 #2001 #1001

NATIONAL SCENE

Bluefish Fishery Management

by Al Ristori

It took quite a while to get all the approvals necessary, but the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council is finally ready to go ahead with a bluefish management plan. Actually, at this point, we're still a long way from an implemented plan, but a preliminary draft discussion paper has been prepared and was reviewed at a bluefish advisory committee meeting on April 3 in Philadelphia.

One of the major delays, in addition to the necessity of receiving clearances from the National Marine Fisheries Service, was the wait for the 1979 Marine Recreational Fishery Statistics Survey figures. The 1979 survey is considered to be far more reliable, from a statistical viewpoint, than any preceding survey. The 1960, 1965, and 1970 national saltwater angling survey results were based on angler memory recall of catch for an entire year. The 1974 and 1975 regional angling surveys employed different methods than used in the previous surveys and relied on memory recall for two-month periods. The 1979 survey was a combination household survey and creel census. This eliminated some of the previous over-estimation of catch and the mis-identification of species.

If the 1979 survey results are as accurate as most trained observers feel they are, the bluefish catch (for the East Coast) of 25,428,000 would represent a significant decrease from earlier surveys. However, as most anglers are aware, the bluefish catch has been in a general up-trend over the years—along with ever-greater participation in the sport. It seems highly unlikely that the bluefish catch has decreased, so the scientists involved in the surveys have arbitrarily decided to ascribe a 100% overestimation to the previous surveys. That's not very scientific, but it's all that can be done at this point in the game.

The one thing that seems quite clear is that the bluefish is the number one species in terms of numbers caught by anglers on the East Coast (the winter flounder is almost 3,000,000 behind), and is the runaway leader in weight. The estimate for bluefish weight caught in 1979 is 96,661,000 pounds. The runner-up summer flounder (fluke) weighed in at 23,858,000. The dependence of the sport fishery on bluefish becomes very clear when you consider that total weight of bluefish caught on the East Coast in 1979 constituted 31.2% of the total weight of all marine recreational catches (excluding tunas and sharks)! This represents a huge increase from the 7.5% of 1960, 10.9% of 1965, and 13.2% of 1970.

On the other hand, the bluefish remains a very insignificant species in terms of the commercial fishery. In 1978, the bluefish ranked twenty-seventh among species landed in the Maine to Virginia area, constituting 0.53% of the total catch. In terms of value per pound, at an average of fourteen cents per pound it was tied with the rock crab and silver hake (whiting) and ahead of only red hake (ling), dogfish, seaweed, sea herring, alewives, unclassified industrial finfish, and menhaden (bunker).

Though the per pound value of the species has risen very slowly over the years, there has been a steady increase in the commercial catch during the present period of abundance. During the 1930s, the total commercial bluefish catch (Atlantic and Gulf) generally ranged from five million to over eight million pounds. That dropped off to practically nothing during the Forties and remained stable at between three and five million pounds during the Fifties. Siginificant increases started in 1962 when the catch reached 5,923,000 pounds and has only fallen below five million pounds on two occasions since then. The catch grew to over ten million pounds in 1973, and it's remained over that figure ever since. In 1979 there was a big jump to 13,256,000 pounds. This is probably based more on abundance than any increase in demand that would bring about additional directed effort.

Even the significant increase in commercial catch hasn't had a great effect on the proportion of the entire catch taken by nets. In 1965 the commercial catch was estimated at only 8.2% of the total bluefish take, but that increased to 12.5% in 1974. Since then it's declined somewhat, and was estimated at 11.3% in 1979.

The reason for the desire of sport fishermen to have a bluefish plan is the potential threat to this fishery posed by the possibility that foreign markets may be developed. Bluefish are rather oily fish that are delicious when absolutely fresh, but which don't freeze well. As a result, there is only a fresh fish market for the species—a fact which discourages excessive pressure (as the price is driven too low for anyone to make money on them). However, improved technology should be able to overcome this problem—particularly if a lucrative overseas market can be developed. If that's the case, we're likely to see a substantial commercial fishery concentrated on one of the most abundant and relatively unexploited resources along the Atlantic Coast. Instead of just small inshore gill netters and haul seiners, there will be pair trawler and tuna purse seiners.

All of this may not happen for some time to come, or it may happen this year. Purse seiners have made a number of big hauls over the years for "beer money," and at least one seiner had an offer from Japan to supply a sample shipment. A deal was made last year to ship Chesapeake Bay bluefish to Venezuela. If that project is successful there could be many more to come. In any case, it's hard to believe that the last large, commercially-untapped fishery resource along the East Coast will be allowed to remain that way forever!

The impact of excessive commercial exploitation on the bluefish could be very severe. The 1979 survey indicated that twenty-six percent of those interviewed in the Mid-Atlantic area were fishing for bluefish. Since the striped bass has declined even further since that survey, the bluefish is becoming ever more important as the major "inshore" game fish of the area. Not only are most charter and party boats dependent on bluefish for much of their annual income, but even those who don't concentrate on them may well be affected if that huge fleet is forced to direct their attention to other species.

The Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council has taken these factors into account and come up with several alternatives designed to maintain the sport fishery along with the present compatible fresh fish commercial fishery. Next week we'll explore those alternatives and review the results of the advisory committee meeting.

BOATING TIPS

WATCH FUEL SUPPLY

by Bob Whittier

Service stations are sufficiently numerous along highways to have lulled everyone into being casual about watching a vehicle's fuel supply. We know that when the gas gauge needle gets to the region below one-quarter full, there's still at least fifty miles worth of fuel in a car's tank. Plenty of time to keep an eye open for a station offering the best price.

When this "We can get gas anywhere" attitude follows people out onto open water, it's a trouble-maker for the Coast Guard. Talk to the fellows at any of their stations and they will tell you that the most common cause of "engine failure" in popular pleasure boating waters is RUNNING OUT OF GAS!

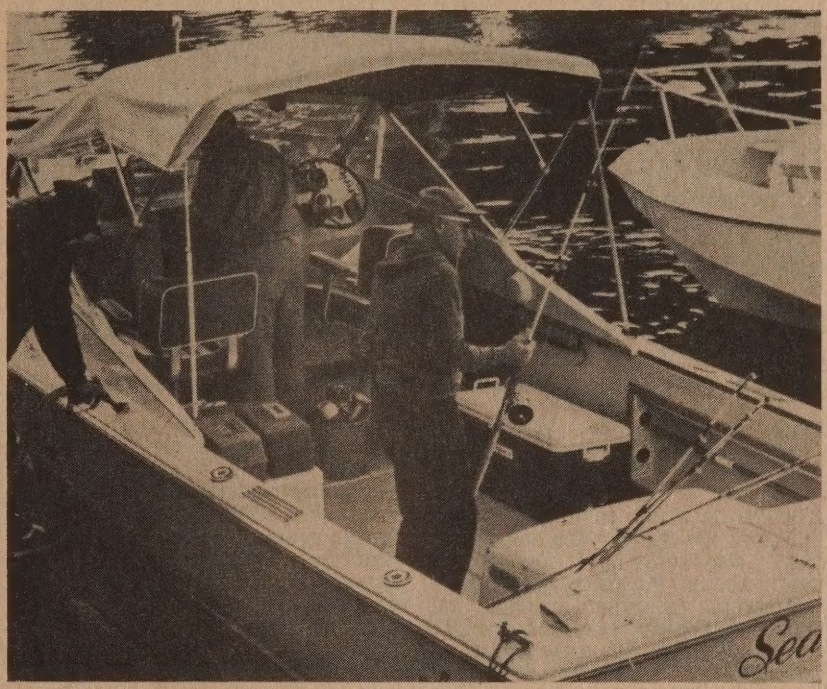
And, having that happen some miles out on on the ocean is a serious matter. Remember, when a car runs out of gas it can coast to a stop by the roadside where it and its occupants will be reasonably safe. Soon enough, another car will come along and give one a ride to the nearest gas station.

But when a boat's motor sputters and quits cold from lack of Arabian Ambrosia, wind and tide take over at once. Boat and occupants are taken for a ride. Every year, Coast Guard patrol boats find out-of-gas pleasure craft drifting many miles out on the rough and lonely ocean.

Here are a few thoughts. Gas tanks tend to go empty toward day's end. When this happens, it can result in a boatload of worried people spending a bad night out there, waiting seemingly endless hours for dawn to come and with it, search planes and boats. Meanwhile, the folks back home spend an even worse night, not knowing what has happened to their loved ones. Like the rest of us, the Coast Guard now has to pay more for patrol boat fuel, and like other government agencies, is operating on a reduced budget.

Once he gets back to dry land, the fellow who let his boat run out of fuel will be called all kinds of most uncomplimentary names.

If you have never done it, or if you have a new boat, the first thing to do is to get as accurate as possible an idea of your rig's cruising range. People are just beginning to become m.p.g. conscious in regard to boats. Conditioned by impressive E.P.A. estimated mileages they see daily in automobile TV commercials, they're easily shocked when confronted with typical boat figures. Many larger inboard craft get only one or two miles per gallon. Figures of four, five or six m.p.g. are typical of many boats used for big-water fishing. A light outboard that skims swiftly over the water's surface with a large outboard motor throttled down to cruising rpm can get eight or nine miles to a gallon.



The more one knows about the fuel consumption and performance characteristics of one's boat, the better able one is to get the most miles out of each gallon of gasoline.

Possibly because such figures are not exactly good salesmanship, but also because performance figures vary widely with such factors as the load aboard, the propeller fitted, engine speed, condition of the bottom finish, plus the variables of wind, current and sea conditions, boat manufacturers shy away from quoting mpg figures. It's probably just as well, for such average figures could mislead people badly at times.

Here's an example. Suppose a larger boat has been giving two mpg. Concerned about it, its owner cleans and smooths up the bottom, gets technical data on engine and propeller performance, pares the boat's weight by removing accumulated odds and ends from cabin and lockers, and gets the boat to deliver three mpg. That does not sound like much. But look—it represents a fifty percent increase in range!

Get a navigation chart for your operating area. Each time you go out, lightly mark the route you travel. Later, measure as well as you can how far you have traveled. Top up the gas tank before mooring and note how many gallons were needed to fill it. Do this several times and you will begin to get a useful mpg figure.

Some landlubbers curse higher-powered boats for "speeding around like crazy, wasting precious fuel." Most of today's planing-hull boats give best mileage at intermediate speeds; little or nothing is saved by slowing down drastically.

For example, test runs of a 19½' console fishing boat powered by a 140 h.p. stern drive engine showed its optimum performance was 6.05 mpg burning 4.25 gph at 3000 rpm. When slowed down to 2000 rpm, the engine burned 2.83 gph, but the boat did only 10.5 mph and gave 3.7 mpg. So much for "slowing 'way down to save gas." At full throttle the boat gave 39.8 mph at 4400 rpm and did 4.85 mpg. That would be hard on the engine if done all the time, of course.

FISH TALK

WE HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN

Part Two — *by William A. Muller*

CONTINUING! In this week's issue we'll close out the accounts on 1980. Once again, let me say to all of you who wrote to me in 1980, my apologies for not responding sooner. For those who write in 1981, the same thing may happen, as we hold your letter as eligible for the Shakespeare Contest until the end of this year.

ANTHONY TALERICO. Anthony inquired about the occurrence of tropical fish in Long Island waters. Tropicals are most likely to be encountered from late August into early September. The papers I have read suggest that the best place to look is in the creeks and shallows of Great South Bay. There you may encounter trigger fish, young jack crevalle, and even a small barracuda.

RAYMOND PASTORE. "The columnists of LIF offer a lot of propaganda about commercial nets. You mention many different types, but I'd also like to know how each of them works. If we know how a commercial fisherman catches the fish, then we can better appreciate the relationship of commercial to sport fishing. I'd also like to know, in your estimation, how many hook and line fishermen are needed to equal the catch of commercial fishermen." Well, I think I must begin by questioning the use of the word "propaganda" in your letter. We aren't interested in propaganda at LIF, Ray, but we are interested in truth. For a long, long time now commercial fishermen have been telling us that it is they who are the protectors of the seas and its creatures. They have been telling us that new laws and regulations would put many thousands of them out of work, and so on and so on. Indeed, it has been the commercial fishermen who have been handing out the propaganda. It is only within the last few years that the data has been coming out to show that, economically, sport fishing is much more important than commercial fishing (up to 100 times as important in some states). It is only recently that we have seen the evidence of truth about commercial fishing habits. Conservation has, and always will be, focused on the sportsman because the sportsman tends not to see dollars, but beautiful creatures in pure and natural habitats. As far as catch comparisons go, that requires a complex response for which space does not permit. In brief, the relationship between fish caught by commercial and recreational efforts depends upon species. There are some species which recreational fishermen simply do not seek in great numbers—such as yellowtail flounder. Thus, for that species, the commercial catch is much greater than the recreational catch. However, for species like striped bass, the recreational effort far exceeds the commercial effort in most states and, therefore, sport fishermen catch more bass each year than commercials, although two considerations need review on that score. First, many hook and line bass fishermen sell their catch and thus they are really commercials and second, new data shows that recreational bass fishermen don't catch as many more bass than commercials, as once was thought to be the case. If memory serves me correctly I believe it is about seven times the commercial catch instead of seventy times as was once believed. Finally, we have explained how most nets work in recent issues; but if anyone is still fuzzy, we'd be glad to go over it again.

JOE MISTRETTA. Joe wrote and suggested that although he reads much about game fish in LIF, he rarely sees pieces on the baitfishes in our waters. He wonders where the baitfish, like killies, spearing, and sand eels winter-over and he also asks about where they can hide during the fishing season. First, let me suggest that you get hold of copies of LIF that go back to the period 1976 through 1978. During that period the Fish Talk column concentrated on descriptions and interesting information about all species of fish that swim in our waters from the bluefin tuna to killies. Those issues will be able to offer you much more detail than we have space for now. Second, whenever our writers discuss the use of a certain bait for catching a certain species, we suggest to them that they talk a little about the baitfish because we know that readers are interested. Thus, in recent years many articles and columns have talked about sand eels: what they are, where they go, why they have been so abundant, what they eat, how they survive the winter, etc. However, there is a point in your letter that I'd like to dwell upon. That was your inquiry about how baitfish survive the onslaught of predation. Where do they hide? First, the methods and adaptations of survival differ with the species. Killies, for example, survive the winter by going into the mud and they survive the season by staying close to the bottom and close to the seaweed. Spearing and sand eels often stay near the top because that's where the food that they eat is most abundant. Near the surface or off the bottom, spearing are very vulnerable to predation. Thus, they survive by being very prolific. Countless millions are spawned and many are consumed but some survive each season to sire the next generation. Sand eels have an escape because they burrow into the sand, but in many cases, that isn't quite the same as hiding, because when they are in the sand in great numbers with their heads sticking out, the predators can zero in on them and scare them out of the bottom. Striped bass are very good at this. Thus, prolific reproduction, camouflage, and a little luck are the keys to success. Through it all, baitfish populations wax and wane in abundance, testimony to the fact that things don't always work out perfectly.

KENNETH SCHMIEDER. Thanks, Ken, for the cutout about the Coast Guard. Never were able to track down too much info on it, but you alerted us to a possible problem in which construction of a bridge might cause the destruction of some wetlands.

SAL AGLIANO. Thanks for your thoughts about abuses heaped on us by other fishermen. We also enjoyed your anecdotes about your sons. We agree. The keeping of short fish is a shame and the slaughter of so-called "trash fish" is a waste of potentially

valuable energy. We do think, however, that more and more fishermen are aware of the need to throw small fish back for next year. We also believe that more and more anglers now understand that the so-called "trash fish" aren't trash at all. Even the ones that humans can't eat are useful in the natural scheme of nature. Bergalls, sea robins, and dogfish may be pests, but killing them may serve to lessen the chances of survival for some beloved species such as weakfish, blues, blackfish, flounder, etc. I further believe that The Long Island Fisherman has been, in part, responsible for educating fishermen and thus helping to change their previous habits. To that end, and many other useful applications of journalistic know-how and power, I'm proud to be part of this family with all the staff and the readers who give so much back to us.

ANTHONY MEDORO. Anthony sent along a list of several interesting items.

1. Did you know that a single codfish may lay as many as nine million eggs. Is this the largest amount of eggs that can be laid?
2. I heard about a certain kind of catfish that can walk on land by pounding its side against the ground. Is this true? If so, what kind of catfish is this?
3. I have heard many fishermen use the term "feeding frenzy." What does this mean?
4. Is it true that sharks have been around since dinosaurs walked the earth?
5. Is it true that the most powerful electric eel is a freshwater species?

"I hope you find the questions interesting." We did, and I'll bet the readers do too. Allow me a little literary license and provide the following answers all in good fun—and some seriousness.

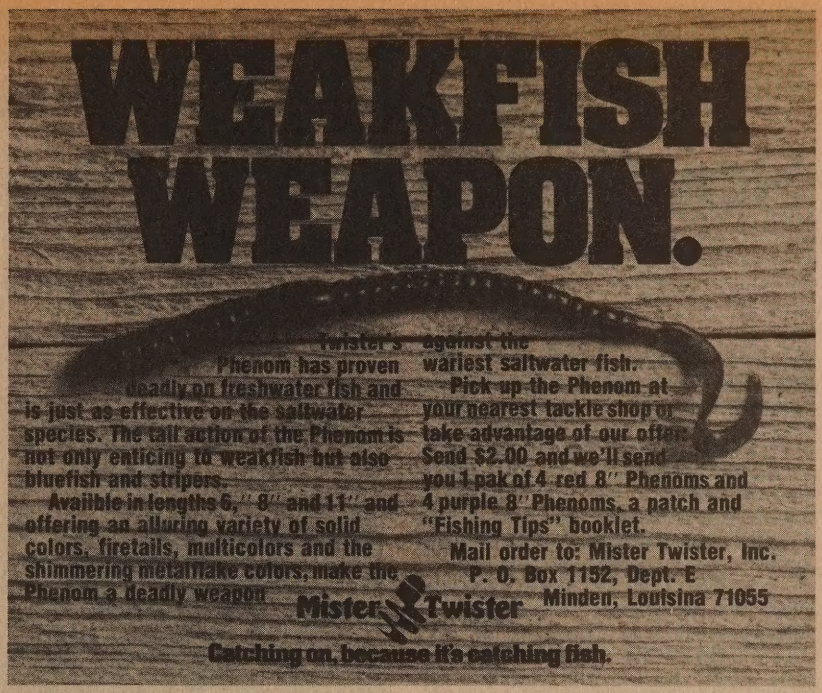
ANSWERS TO ABOVE QUESTIONS.

1. Damned if I know!
2. Yes, walking catfish!
3. Lunacy in fish when they see a store full of homemade ice cream after they just finished a plate of spaghetti.
4. No! About twice as long as that. Perhaps 500 million years. Maybe less!
5. Yes.

JIM HORNE. Thanks for your thoughts on how to catch big weaks now that they are fewer, but bigger. The "cow bells" lure sounds interesting (a series of spinners with hook and squid strip on the end). Look for a series of upcoming articles about how to catch 'em when the catchin' is tough!

H. CHARLES! Where can I listen to marine weather conditions. Channel 1 on Cablevision, WINS radio, WGSM radio, and driving there and seeing for yourself. Thanks for kind words.

ALSO THANKS TO JERRY ATSHBAW, Milton Lerner, Al Carroll (we're still looking for an answer to your question), and Francis Kulhman.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SINKER BOUNCING

South Shore Mackerel Fishing

by Matt Ahern

Al Dunn removed the dripping ladle from the chum can, laid it aside, and glanced up at me. "Think it's stirred enough? My arm's near broke."

I picked up the ladle and swirled it through the contents of the five gallon can. Bits of ground bunker whirled to the surface. "Still too thick. Add another quart of water. That should do it."

Just then Artie Leidecker returned from the bow where he'd gone to double-check the "Echo's" anchor. "Don't waste too much time fellers. The tide'll be moving in less than fifteen minutes. And easy on the noise. I could hear that can banging the deck clear to the bow. You act like amateurs."

Al Dunn looked up at me. "Is he always like this?"

"Only when we're fishing," I replied.

Which is certainly true enough, for when fishing is involved Artie indeed becomes a perfectionist. But then I guess that's what makes him the best all-around bottom fisherman I know. Especially does this skill become noticeable when winter codfishing.

But at the moment we weren't chasing cod and it wasn't winter. It was Monday, May 5, 1980 and we were at anchor in sixty-five feet of water several miles south of Jones Inlet Bell Buoy. Our intentions, of course, were to put mackerel on board. How successful we would be there was no way of foretelling, but as always, we planned on giving it our best shot.

The morning was ideal. Unexpected balmy temperatures, and steadily increasing as the bright sun rose higher and higher, had quickly dispersed the early-morning chill. But best of all, the soft northerly breeze stirred the ocean's calm surface, giving the effect of what old-timers called a "mackerel seas." For once the fishing gods smiled.

Though Artie and I were old-timers at mackerel fishing, Al Dunn, who occasionally fished with us, had yet to try his hand. For weeks I had filled him with glowing tales of excellent spring mackerel fishing, a normal, natural thing to do I suppose; but as we awaited the tidal change, I began to have misgivings. In my enthusiasm, I had overlooked the fact that mackerel can become temperamental. Here today, gone tomorrow.

Well—there was only one way to find out.

When taken on light tackle, mackerel provide the ultimate in fun.

Al and I moved to the stern and Artie made preparations to ladle over the chum. I selected several two ounce diamond jigs from the tackle box and passed one over to Al. "Tie it on with an Improved Clinch Knot and fish it down about thirty feet," I told him. "Keep it moving with fast, snappy jigs. I'll fish mine about twenty feet and we'll see what happens."

"You guys all set?" Artie asked.

I nodded. "Let 'er rip."

Several dollops of chum spattered the surface and began to move off and sink into the depths. I sent the lure to what I hoped was close to the twenty-foot depth and began to jig. Al watched for a few seconds to get the hang of it. Minutes passed in silence. We patiently flashed the jigs while Artie continued to ladle the chum in an unbroken stream. And then Al let out a whoop.

"Gotcha! Here comes number one!"

The fish made a dash under the boat. Al fought it to the surface and lifted it aboard. We had our first mackerel of the year, a fish about 1½ lbs.

Artie quickly tossed over another dollop of chum and picked up his rod. "How deep are they?"

"About thirty feet," I replied as Al hooked another one.

I put my reel in free-spool and let the diamond jig peel off the twenty pound monofilament until I reached what I hoped was the feeding depth and began to jig. Pow! I got that rod-stopping jolt all mackerel fishermen know, and, after a spirited, rod-bending battle, I lifted a fine, fat mackerel aboard.

A few minutes later we were into a large school of mackerel. We caught them as fast as we could get the diamond jigs to that all-important feeding depth. One scrappy mackerel after another came flying aboard. Occasionally one of us would take time out to ladle more chum, but there seemed no end to the wild fishing.

Time passed and we continued to deck fish. By chumming cautiously, we gradually brought the mackerel to the surface. We could see hundreds of mackerel milling around, shoulder to shoulder, racing each other for the jigs. At times, they seemed so thick, that, as always, I felt I could walk on their backs clear to the shore line. Had we put on mackerel trees, we could easily have gotten three or four at a time.

Just as we decided to call it quits—because as Artie always says,

enough is enough—a shark, attracted by all the commotion, homed in on the easy pickings. The mackerel sounded in a flash and were gone.

But it didn't matter. We had filled our twenty gallon fish bucket to brimming.

When mackerel fishing is at its best, action such as this goes on hour after hour off Long Island's south shore. Surprisingly, though, when I first began party boat fishing over a half-century ago, few fishermen concerned themselves with mackerel. I don't remember one party boat ever making a mackerel trip at that time. Most old-timers who chased mackerel those days did so aboard private craft. I know I never fished mackerel aboard a party boat until the late Thirties. And even then it was none too popular with most fellows.

But all that changed when some enterprising fishermen began to experiment with mossbunker chum. I don't know who these fellows were, but they certainly started a whole new fishery. These fishermen quickly discovered that not only were mackerel exciting to catch, but when they were in a biting mood, it was difficult not to catch them. Those fish, they discovered, had no qualms about striking any lure or bait as long as they were properly presented.

When mackerel are in a feeding frenzy, anything goes. I have caught them by using strips of wax paper as an experiment. Actually, once mackerel begin feeding, it doesn't seem to matter what is used. The trick is to find them, which isn't too difficult.

Look for sea birds in any area you intend to fish: gulls—and especially diving gannets. These can aid you in your search, particularly if they are working and appear reluctant to leave the area as you approach. But the presence of birds is not necessary for good fishing. There are several other methods fishermen use.

Many fishermen anchor and chum as we did, they drift in a known producing area, or even troll the edges of a sighted school. To my mind, though, the best bet is to find a water depth of sixty to eight feet, anchor, and get the bunker chum going. This chum should be mixed with sea water to the consistency of a thin soup—and it should be ladled into the current cautiously. Don't overdo! The idea is to have the fish seek out the source of this unexpected windfall.

Don't break the chum line before the fish respond. And have patience. Fish may appear immediately, or it may take a half-hour. But as long as you keep that bunker chum going, you will be certain to draw any roving school of mackerel to the boat. They can't resist.

And be quiet! No dropping of tackle boxes, stomping of feet. Mackerel are extremely noise-conscious and will quickly vacate the area no matter how great their feeding frenzy. They are also line shy, so use lines of low visibility. If heavy lines must be used, add a five-foot leader of twenty pound monofilament.

Many fishermen write and ask how they can tell at what depth the fish are feeding as they move into the chum line. It's no great problem. Each fisherman should flash his lure at a different depth until the first fish is caught, as Al and I did. Then a dab of quick-drying marker ink is applied to the line as a reference point. Experienced fishermen rarely use marker ink, for they have developed a sixth sense for depth, but in the beginning, this is a good habit to get into.

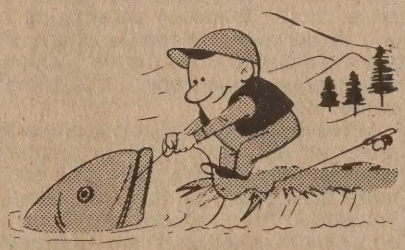
As for tackle, it need not be elaborate. Any medium-weight boat rod and conventional reel filled with twenty pound mono will do the trick. The best lure, to my mind, and easiest to use, is a two to four ounce diamond jig. My preference has always been the smaller one. It is best to tie any lure directly to the line with an Improved Clinch Knot. Snap swivels are convenient, but unless they have a dull finish, I would forget them. Mackerel love the glint of a bright swivel, which means that you are sure to miss fish.

To the diamond jig you can add several plastic tubes if you wish. I never do. One fish at a time is good enough for me. The important thing to remember is to keep those lures in motion by constant jigging. If you use small pieces of fish bait (bunker hearts found in the chum can, too) and allow them to drift out in the current, this isn't important; but artificial lures must be given action.

Mackerel put up a game fight. They have a powerful strike, amazing speed, and will dive and make long runs. If you are using ultra-light tackel, they will leap from the water. They will fight as hard and long as any trout of equal size. Many freshwater trout fishermen look forward to a week or two of mackerel fishing each spring. Red and white streamers, weighted and fished deep, are readily accepted. I know one excellent trout fisherman who shuns everything in saltwater—except weakfish and mackerel.

So, keep an eye on those party boat ads in The Fisherman. When the first week of May arrives, get ready. Then go out and have the time of your life. I have never met a fisherman who didn't enjoy mackerel fishing.

I don't think I ever will.



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SURF FISHING

SAND IN YOUR SHOES

by John Fritz

The quality of Long Island's beaches are praised by visitors from all over the world. Many worldwide travelers claim that they exceed most of the highly touted tourist attractions pictured so splendidly in the travel brochures. Residents of this area are well aware of the special gift Nature has bestowed on this land, while those of us who enjoy these benefits cherish the hope that man's greed will not spoil this irreplaceable recreational region. Although most visitors to the oceanfront are more concerned with activities other than fishing, few people experience the different moods of the shore line better than the surfcaster.

The untutored eye scanning a deserted beach sees little but water, sand and a few scattered shore birds going about their task of procuring a meal. The veteran surfman, on the other hand, is able to discern a considerable amount of detail from a superficial jaunt along the water's edge. In the following paragraphs I will try to make the reader aware of the signs placed at his disposal which will improve his chances of catching game fish.

While it is true that some anglers are granted sufficient luck to saunter onto a beach for the first time and make a nice haul of fish, consistent production from an area takes time, effort, and patience. Time to study the area and learn its secrets, effort to check out the possibilities under differing conditions and patience to persist until the right combinations are found which will produce patterned results.

Obviously the best time to learn the intricacies of a given stretch of beach is during the daylight hours, preferably under a bright sun when the water depth can be ascertained by its varying shades of green. The darker the color, the greater the depth of water. Two practices that will greatly increase the prospective angler's ability to perceive water depths are to wear Polaroid sunglasses and to climb to the top of the dunes. The first item will reduce the sun's glare and accentuate the varying hues of the ocean. The second will afford the viewer a better angle from which to see in the water's depths.

Since most serious surf fishing is undertaken after sunset, the in-depth study of a shore line by a newcomer would entail a separate trip to the oceanfront just for observation. While this practice is encouraged, it is not always practical. An angler visiting a beach for the very first time after darkness is at a disadvantage, but by letting his eyes become accustomed to the celestial illumination certain characteristics of the ocean can be detected. This can be accomplished primarily by observing the action of the waves.

Waves breaking off the beach will denote an offshore sandbar. If there is a break in the parallel line of approaching waves, it will designate a cut in the bar. When ocean swells break on the beach with full force, there is nothing to impede their path from the open sea. In a similar manner waves crashing on the beach denotes deep water almost to the water's edge, whereas if the waves rush landward in long sweeping sheets of foamy water it can be determined that the slope of the beach is gradual. Occasionally, the approximate distance a sandbar lies off the beach can be told by the size of the waves, for the greater the distance the more opportunity they have to rebuild their strength. There is one factor which has an important bearing in any attempt to determine this distance and that is the height of the offshore bar. For instance, a bar approaching the surface will almost totally restrict the rush of the swells towards the land.

Frequently a trough will form inside these parallel bars. At night it is often difficult to locate the sluiceway where this water once again rushes seaward. The water in this trough will flow parallel to the beach in the direction of the nearest break in the bar. Determine the direction of this flow and follow until the cut is found. If the swirling choppy area where this flow meets the sea cannot be seen in the darkness, proceed until a flow from the opposite direction is discovered. Before this is reached an area of little parallel flow should be found indicating the most likely place to find lurking game fish.

Those anglers with the opportunity to vist the shore beforehand are advised to plan their trip for the time of low water. If time permits this trip should also coincide with periods of the full or new moon for it is during these occasions when the rise and fall of the tide is the greatest. At these times the bars, holes, sluiceways, and all the other features which determine the character of the shore and therefore the best areas to seek game fish are uncovered.

Smart fishermen, after making the effort to scout the area, will place markers along the beach as an aid in locating the better fishing sites on their return after dark. Natural objects, such as fences, washed-up timber or misshapen dunes are a few examples of the ways used to determine specific locations. If none of these are present, stakes or similar objects planted at the foot of the dunes can be used. When long stretches of beach are scouted, memory can often fail the best of us, therefore, a pad and pencil will ensure the accuracy of the information gathered earlier. The practice of marking a beach will also aid bottom fishermen using the area in daylight at times of high water and little surf.

Unfortunately, because we are dealing with sandy shore lines, all this effort can be altered after a period of time or by the fury of a single storm. Periodic monitoring during the fishing season should be undertaken to ensure the most accurate information on the ever-changing waterfront.

After a working knowledge of the topographical features of the beach are learned, the end result is achieved only after the casting begins. In the daylight, signs of bird activity are obvious clues to the presence of fish. Whether the activity indicates just baitfish or both bait and predator, it is a likely area to start fishing. On occasion, pods of bait can be detected below the surface with the only telltale sign being the discoloration of the water. When such obvious signs are absent, it's time to hitch up the waders and get to work. Shore lines adjacent to inlets during the ebbing tide are likely areas to begin one's quest. If one intends to fish the entire outgoing tide, it might be preferable to plan the trip so that the open beach and its accompanying bars are fished as the ebbing current reaches its peak. Remember, our south shore inlets require the addition of one or two hours to determine the difference between high water and slack tide. The bottom of the outgoing is favored by many surfmen when fishing the inlet areas for this last flush of bait seems to produce the better results. During the fall months, the beaches on the west side of the inlets are preferred for the bait spawned in the bays is starting its southward migration.

There are several time-tested techniques which can be used to cover extensive reaches of waterfront. Not all of them require a buggy, but where a 4x4 is permitted, the vehicle will allow greater coverage. Since the surfman activated by foot power is in the majority, I will point out a few thoughts on their operations, but let me point out that these ideas pertain to the buggy operator also.

To begin with, many prime areas lying between Jones and Fire Island Inlets can be fished by leaving the car in the available parking lots. From Moriches Inlet east to Montauk, extensive areas of shore can be covered by using the many dead end roads which lead to the water. Most, if not all, restrictions are eased after Labor Day, but permits must be obtained to use the State parking fields after sunset.

When lengthy trips from the vehicle are undertaken, it is wise to travel as light as possible. Do not overdress for one will either be fishing or walking. Equipment should be kept to a minimum but include an extra spool of line, wire cutters, and a stringer if fish are to be brought back When fishing after sunup, carry only daylight lures such as tins and poppers. After dusk, daylight lures can be left behind and replaced with a selection of swimming plugs appropriate for the weather conditions prevailing. For instance, one would not attempt to use a 1 oz. Rebel in a stiff onshore wind and a heavy surf. Because we are concerned with fishing sand beaches with their vast unobstructed areas, tackle lighter than normal, but still capable of casting the chosen lures, can be used. A light rod will be less tiresome after hours of constant plugging and the need to beach a fish quickly is not necessary when fishing an uncrowded open beach.

If two or more anglers are involved, choose lures that cover different water depths or produce unlike swimming action until the fish are located. Rather than follow one after the other along the beach, fishing companions should leap-frog. In this manner more ground can be covered at a faster rate if a specific point on the beach is the desired location. One method used successfully is to make three casts in a fan-like manner from one spot and then walk past your partners and repeat the process.

Buggy operators, if not concentrating on previously determined hot-spots, can vary this technique by dropping one man off and driving 100 yards or so down the beach. The driver stops the rig, leaves the buggy and proceeds to fish in the direction away from his partner. When the first man reaches the buggy he will drive a similar distance beyond the other and repeat the procedure.

One last thought before closing. Many surfmen are of the opinion that artificial lures must be used when moving about the beach in an attempt to locate game fish. This is not so. A common practice exercised at the Cape entails the use of live eels in the same manner one would plug the beach. Another method involves the use of bait and a typical bottom rig. After making the cast, let the rig lie motionless for a short while, then slowly drag the bait towards the shore with a periodic pause every so often during the retrieve until the rig is worked all the way into the wash. This process can be repeated every 100' or so as the angler works his way down the beach.

In past years, the south shore beaches witnessed scores of busy surfmen plying the water's edge working the passing schools of game fish. Unfortunately, this practice is not as popular nowadays for most anglers are content to remain in one location and fish bottom. There is much debate as to the productivity of each method but when watching one's rod tip fails to indicate a strike after endless hours of patient vigilance, remember that there is another method of locating fish.

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ON THE MARKET:

SPINNING TACKLE

Part One — *by Al Ristori*

It seems like ages since spinning tackle first started getting popular in the United States. Though it had been around for quite some time in Europe, it wasn't until after World War II that spinning tackle first achieved some popularity on this side of the Atlantic. Returning servicemen spread the word, and the spinning revolution slowly gathered steam. Yet, as recently as twenty-five years ago, most fishermen still hadn't accepted this "odd" method of casting.

My first venture into spinning occurred in 1953. With the crude tackle I'd had to use up to that time, I hadn't learned much about casting. However, I struggled with my first spinning reel and managed to improve somewhat. The spinning reels available at the time were not only expensive for a high school kid, but also very vulnerable to saltwater corrosion. Since that's where I planned to use my reel, I selected a "gem" known as the Ny-O-Lite. That model was made entirely of plastic, but it stood up surprisingly well through a month of porgy fishing at Shelter Island.

My initial attempt to spool that "new-fangled" monofilament on the spinner illustrated one of the frustrations that prevented spinning tackle from catching on like wildfire at the time. After all, what did I know about line twist? As it turned out, I found out about it very quickly and ended up spending the better part of a day just trying to get line on the reel.

While I'm sure I was clumsier than most, the fact of the matter was that the spinning gear of the time left much to be desired. The reels were fragile, had line guides that were quickly grooved by monofilament, and didn't stand up well in saltwater. The original glass rods usually had the action of a wet noodle, and the monofilaments were too stiff—having been developed for uses other than fishing. Then there was the matter of holding the reel "upside down" and reeling with the "wrong" hand. It took a lot of dedication to sell spinning tackle in those days, but the outstanding fishing results achieved with that gear soon converted the masses to it.

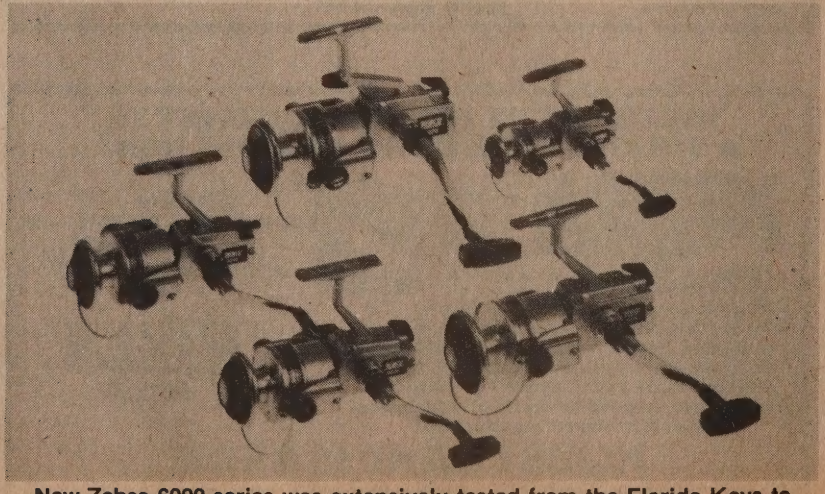
It hasn't really been that long in years, but a great deal has happened in the world of spinning since those early days. Almost everyone now uses spinning tackle at one time or another, and manufacturers can spend a week at a sportsmen's show without having anyone ask them why they have to reel with their "weak" hand or hold the rod with the "strong" one. Tackle improvements have made spinning ever easier, especially for the saltwater angler. Today's top quality spinning reels not only don't have to be pampered, but they're also quite capable of handling some of the toughest game fish in the seas. The angler now has a choice of every conceivable action in virtually unbreakable fiberglass, and a broad selection in such advanced materials as graphite and boron. Best of all, modern top quality monos are a joy to fish with.

In recent years, a dominant name in the spinning reel business has been Daiwa. Until they came along, Japanese reels were usually cheap copies of popular models. However, Daiwa took the course of producing high quality at a reasonable price. Furthermore, they popularized the simple "knock-down" bail trip that was formerly used only on the cheapest of reels. This particularly appealed to saltwater anglers who were tired of bail spring breakdowns. At the same time, Daiwa brought back the skirted spool reel that was popular throughout the rest of the world—but which was favored only by some hard-core surfcasters in the U.S. Within a few years, everyone was building skirted spools, and that arrangement has now almost completely supplanted the old internal spool system.

On the other hand, Daiwa's external trip bail system has not stood the test of time. It's still "foolproof" and quite practical, but significant improvements in internal trip bails has brought most anglers back to that arrangement. The "knockdown" bail will probably always be with us, as it always works and is the cheapest way to accomplish the purpose, but it is inconvenient to use at times—particularly when the two tripping surfaces end up nearly aligned, thus requiring a great deal of force on the handle in order to close the bail. Most of the top-quality reel manufacturers have now gone to an internal trip bail with a manual option.

Line guides have improved tremendously in the past decade. All top-quality reels now have roller guides, rather than the stationary steel guides that used to be quickly grooved by mono—or the stationary carbide guides that abraided the line. Yet, even good roller guides won't do you a bit of good unless you keep them lubricated and free-rolling.

Gear ratios have increased considerably over the years. Back in the Sixties, a 4:1 gear ratio was considered to be super-fast. Now just about every popular model is over 4:1, and many are well over 5:1. Handle convertability from one side of the reel to the other is another relatively recent feature. Though this primarily benefits the dealer (who can stock one reel instead of two), it is now just



New Zebco 6000 series was extensively tested from the Florida Keys to the Pacific Northwest.

about standard on all skirted spool reels.

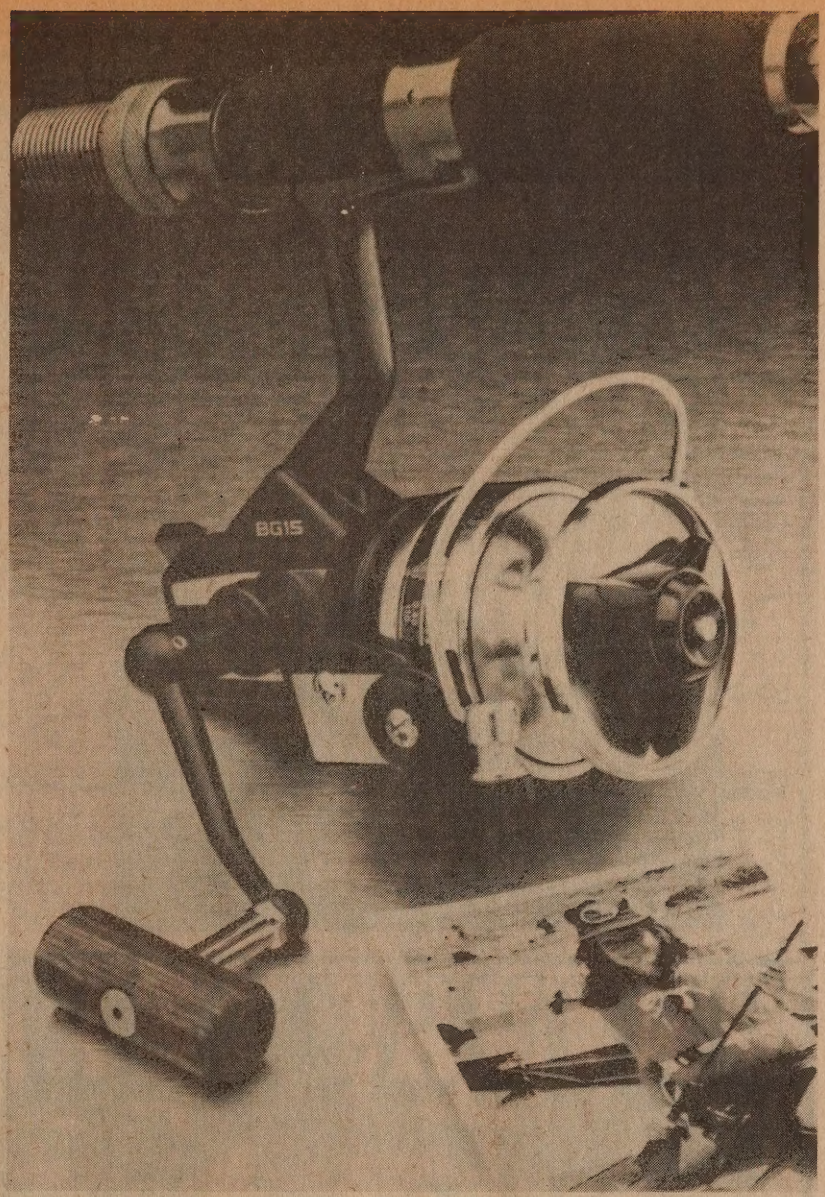
The optional anti-reverse is a curiosity of the spinning reel. The baitcasting and conventional reels that preceded it usually had only a permanent anti-reverse. The reason why spinning reels were made in this fashion is lost in antiquity, and the manufacturers appear to be afraid to change this system—despite the fact that it's unreliable and, probably, one of the major reasons for lost fish. Other than some ultra-light anglers (who don't trust the drags with their web-like lines), almost every competent fisherman I've met fishes with the anti-reverse on. Those who don't, take it off because they can't stand the built-in clicking noise. That's one area that modern manufacturers have finally attacked. Most of the better reels now have an optional silent anti-reverse.

Spinning reel drags aren't nearly as good as those found in quality revolving spool reels, but they have improved greatly over the years. The most important factor to check for is a smooth initial pull. When fishing a tight drag, most fish are lost when jerking rather than on a run. If the drag is a little sticky, there will be a significant build-up of pressure before the line starts moving out against the drag. Check for this by suspending the reel by the end of the line and gradually loosening the drag. A good reel will "walk" smoothly away from you as its own weight carries it down. Avoid any reel that "chatters" on the way down, or requires you to loosen the drag so far that the cap drops right to the ground.

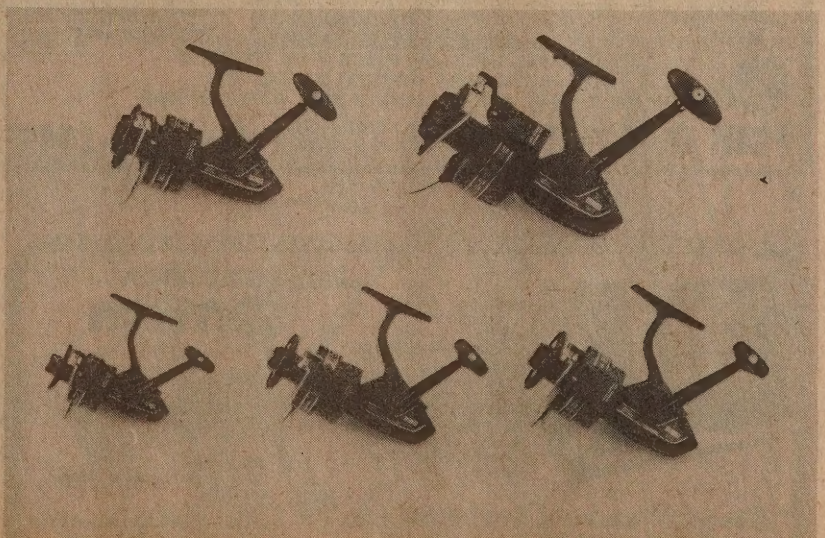
The internal parts of modern spinning reels are usually of little concern to the average angler. All of the top-of-the-line reels made by reputable manufacturers will stand up to both tough fishing and saltwater. Shielded stainless steel ball bearings are a good feature, though not essential. Another old innovation that's been brought back is the self-centering bail. First introduced on the old Langley reels, this system involves a searcher tooth that brings the line to your fingertip in preparation for the next cast. Generally speaking, it's a convenience—but the durability of various systems is still in question, and I find it annoying when trying to tighten up the line to hold a lure in place on the rod.

There are plenty of changes from the major competitors in this field for 1981. Shakespeare is making its biggest move in the long history of the firm by introducing dozens of new rods, reels, lines, and even electric motors. All of these products are coming out under the new name, Sigma. Included are two series of spinning reels. The Sigma Supra series features a stern-mounted drag, two ball bearings, and selective internal trip. There are six models ranging from ultra-light to heavy, with retail prices going from about

(Continued on next page.)



New Daiwa Black Gold Series with three ball bearings.



New Shakespeare Sigma 2200 series (clockwise from left top): 060, 080, 050, 040, and 030.

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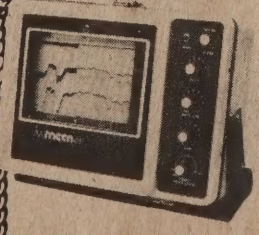

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$35 to $60. Just below this group is the Sigma 2200 series. Like the Supras, they have an anodized black finish, fold-down bail, and reversible handle. However, the drag is mounted in the spool, there is only one ball bearing, and the roller guide is of chrome-plated brass rather than stainless steel. The six 2200 models cover the same range and should sell from $30 to $45. Shakespeare's Alpha reels were a mid-season introduction in 1980 and provide the angler with attractive economy models that still feature a stainless steel ball bearing. Many of the older models remain in the Shakespeare line, but the 2900 President series (with the last of their external trip models) has been dropped.

Daiwa has been on top of the spinning reel heap for several years now, and they show no inclination to move down. The long-time top-of-the-line Gold series has been dropped in favor of the new Black Gold group. This striking combination of black and gold features a new hard anodized, parafined finish and corrosion-resistant materials. All eight models have three stainless steel ball bearings, silent anti-reverse, anodized, drop-forged aluminum spool, and lightweight, folding aluminum handle. All but the heavy-duty BG90 have internal trips with a manual option, and one model (the medium heavy BG60SC) has a self-centering bail. Just below this new line comes the all-new Regal series with a jet-black finish. All eight of these models feature internal bail trip with manual option, silent anti-reverse, and a single ball bearing on the main shaft. A one-piece aluminum spool is featured except on the lightweight Daiwa Pro Bass Team D1300B. That reel, being intended for bass fishing, has a relatively small capacity, graphite-reinforced ABS polymer spool—and is also specially configured. The extremely popular Silver series is still in the line, but the internal trip models have been moved up to the Regal group, and the remaining models are all external trips. The new Apollo Silver series features internal-trip spinners at a very modest price.

Zebco is king of the closed-faced spincasting market, but they continue to also make an effort at getting a larger share of the open-face market. This year they've dropped both the internal-spool Cardinals and the recently-developed Omegas in favor of the moderately-priced 6000 series, some of which can retail below $20. These five, golden skirted-spool models feature ball bearings and a brass pinion gear. All have internal trips, except for the heavy-duty 6070. These models aren't as fancy as some, but they've been tested under rugged saltwater conditions and have stood the test.

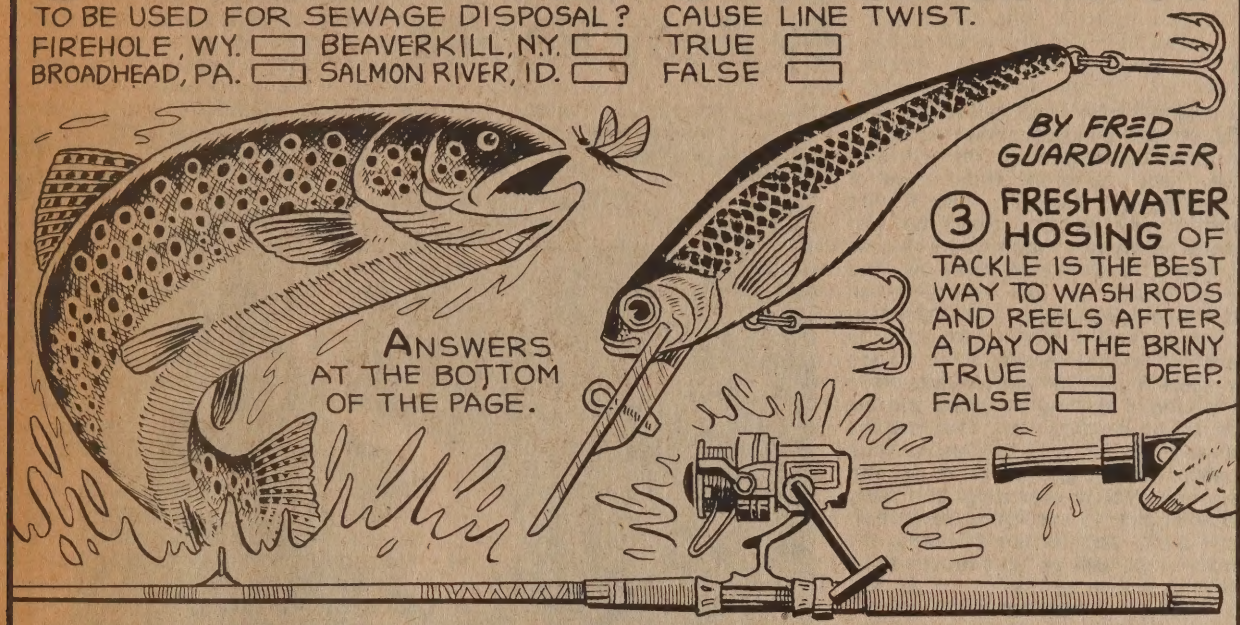
Next week, we will continue our coverage of what's available in the reel department as well as what's new in rods.

THE FISHERMAN QUIZ

1 **WHICH ONE** OF THESE FAMOUS U.S. TROUT STREAMS IS NOW PROPOSED TO BE USED FOR SEWAGE DISPOSAL?
FIREHOLE, WY. ☐ BEAVERKILL, N.Y. ☐
BROADHEAD, PA. ☐ SALMON RIVER, ID. ☐

2 **PLUGS** ARE POOR CHOICES FOR TROLLING BECAUSE THEY CAN CAUSE LINE TWIST.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

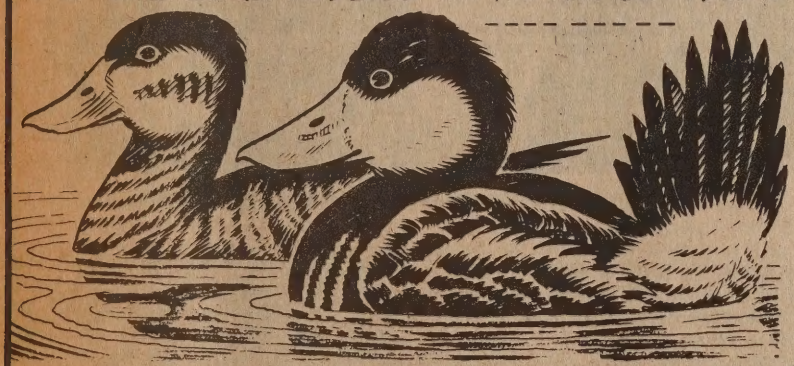
BY FRED GUARDINEER



ANSWERS AT THE BOTTOM OF THE PAGE.

3 **FRESHWATER HOSING** OF TACKLE IS THE BEST WAY TO WASH RODS AND REELS AFTER A DAY ON THE BRINY DEEP.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

4 **THESE RUDDY DUCKS** PAINTED BY SOUTH DAKOTA ARTIST JOHN WILSON WILL BE MOISTENED BY EVERY DUCK HUNTER IN THE U.S. BECAUSE THEY WILL BE REPRODUCED ON THE 1981-82 FEDERAL



5 **BEFORE THE 18TH** CENTURY, THREE OF THESE PEOPLE CONTRIBUTED TO THE HISTORY OF FISHING THROUGH THEIR WRITINGS. WHO DID NOT?
WILLIAM PITT ☐ CHARLES COTTON ☐ D.J. BERNERS ☐
IZAAK WALTON ☐

6 **AMERICAN SHAD** SPAWN ONLY ONCE AND THEN DIE.
TRUE ☐
FALSE ☐

1 – THE BEAVERKILL, N.Y. STATE. 2 – FALSE. MANY PLUGS TROLL WELL. 3 – FALSE. FRESHWATER IS OK FOR RODS, BUT REELS SHOULD BE WIPED WITH A CLEAN RAG AND SPRAYED WITH A DEMOISTURIZING AGENT. FRESHWATER MERELY DISSOLVES SALT AND RUNS IT DEEPER INSIDE THE REEL. 4 – DUCK STAMP. 5 – WILLIAM PITT. 6 – TRUE IN THE SOUTH, BUT IN THE NORTH THEY OFTEN SPAWN TWO OR MORE TIMES.

BETWEEN PARADES

by Andy Regina

The long winter layoff raises hell with fishermen! Long after normal tackle maintenance has been finished, and way past the dragged-out days of readying your boat and motor for the forthcoming season, the time still drags slowly by. I know that I become unbearable to friends, relatives, and even myself; but just before I reach the breaking point it's half-past March, and time to inaugurate another fishing season. Here on the western Sound our season kicks off to the tune of skirling bagpipes and the sound of dancing Irish feet, as the annual St. Patrick's Day parade ushers in some good flounder fishing. Now everybody is smiling: the party boat skipper to see full complements of hopeful anglers line his rails, the marina operator as he rents out skiffs for the day or berths for the season, the fisherman because he once again is out "doing his thing," and the fisherman's wife, 'cause her bear has finally left his den!

Our ubiquitous season starters oblige one and all: the hungry meat-lover because now he can fill his freezer with delicious flounder fillets, and the sportsman 'cause once again he can thrill to the feel of "fish on," as tiny rods throb and pulse with life once more. We get flounder almost everywhere on the Sound, from the bays out near Oyster Bay and Bayville; off the points at Eaton's and Lloyd's, down through Matinecock and Hempstead Harbor, to the very banks of the western boundaries, flush against the borough of The Bronx. Party boats head out to Oyster Bay and Bayville, private boats and rentals dot the shores of more localized areas, like the seawall off Matinecock or the beaches between Sand's Point and the entrance to Port Washington, and shore fishermen seem to sprout up like weeds, all along every shore line. The beach rats concentrate on the likes of Little Neck Bay, or around Pelham Bay, Eastchester Bay, and Orchard Beach in The Bronx. Jetties in-between get their fair share of aspirants also, like the twin jetties west of Fort Totten or the jetties at either end of Orchard Beach, and parks under bridges get a good play, too, like Whitestone Park in Long Island and Ferry Point Park in The Bronx—each at opposite ends of the Whitestone Bridge. Older, wiser Bronxites quietly fish the littered shore lines of Hunt's Point, Sound View, or Castle Hill, or the beaches along Country Club, near the Police pistol range in Eastchester Bay, or between the City Island Bridge and Orchard Beach. The lagoon outside of the Orchard Beach parking lot gets a lot of attention too, as does Hunter Island, just past the last Orchard Beach jetty.

Later, in May, some really nice blackfish come to net.

Almost everyone has fun and almost everybody catches fish, at least enough to make things interesting, as flounders take worm baits on soft bottoms. Conventional two-hook rigs predominate, as does spinning tackle, but conventional tackle and even droplines still get their fair share, too. Usually the whole month of April is devoted to flounder, although striped bass start to make their presence known by the end of that month, usually caught incidentally on flounder hooks. This signals the start of serious striped bass fishing to those aficionados, and the bulk of the efforts are applied to dunking worms on the bottom in such places as Little Neck Bay, Turtle Cove, Hart Island, and Sand's Point.

The beginning of May normally signals the influx of mackerel into the Sound, and soon concerted efforts are made after that streamlined battler, usually by anglers in boats fishing diamond jigs in mid-Sound off Port Jeff, but encroaching ever westward with each passing day. Although the macs will make sporadic incursions inshore, as they chase bait onto the beach, fishing for them is mostly a deep-water thing done from boats. Thousands of anglers catch millions of the speedy gamesters, delighting in the spirited tussle they provide and spurred on by the fact that mackerel are equally delicious to man and fish alike. While many fishermen seek full sacks to stock their food freezers, a like amount stash them away towards the impending game fish season, when striped bass, bluefish, and weakfish all readily accept this bait. The big game hunters, way out on the bluewater scene, also employ the macs as both bait and chum, for species such as bluefin tuna, so you can get a fair idea of the popularity of this fish to one and all.

As the bulk of fishermen are stackin' macs, other hug rocks and fish bottom for blackfish, which make an almost unheralded appearance while the mackerel steal the limelight.

These battlers favor rough bottom, seeking their hardshell appetizers on rocks, reefs, wrecks, or pilings; in fact, almost every place that will host barnacle growth and mussels. Baits can vary, especially in the spring, and seaworms, clams, fiddler crabs and green crabs all have their exponents, each of which is fished on bottom via tandem-tied Virginia hooks. Though they start out slowly, blackfish soon steal the scene from the mackerel which shortly depart for more northerly climes, and set-up residence as the most popular bottom species in the Sound until waters grow too warm for their comfort and they, too, seek cooler pastures. Bottom bouncers can expect a mixed bag towards the end of May, with flounder, mackerel and blackfish each fairly abundant, but June usually sees the black reigning supreme.

June is also the month that most serious striped bass addicts get their act together too, fishing baits such as whole sand worms or live mackerel close to rocky shore lines. Nights now see bassmen off one of the many points that dot the northern shore line, soaking cut bait, such as chunks of mackerel or bunker, amid the huge boulders inshore, or live-lining whole sand worms into the rips, or fishing the ever-popular live eels on the bottom. Although not generally famed as a big bass hangout, many school fish are taken in the Sound into teen weights, with enough thirty and forty pounders to make things extremely interesting. Daylight usually sees bass-catching efforts relegated to either deep water trolling or inshore plugging, and deep reefs such as the one at Center Island, or Mid Reef off Orchard Beach produce for trollers using umbrella rigs or single tubes on wire line. Plug casters work inshore boulders with poppers and swimmers or small metal lures, concentrating on the down-tide edges when strong currents form all those rips that bass love to lie in, waiting for bait to be swept by. Our bridges get a big play also, especially at night, and places such as the Bayville Bridge and the City Island Bridge are perennial hotspots, giving up bass in quantity and quality to the dedicated believers that haunt these spans throughout the summer.

A most welcomed addition to bass seekers often surprises us as we seek Old Roccus, as weakfish quite often take baits and lures meant for stripers, especially at night and predominantly towards the eastern limits of the western half of the Sound. Places such as Cold Spring Harbor, Oyster Bay, Eaton's Neck and Lloyd's Point all host a surprisingly good amount of weakfish, including tiderunners that run up to ten pounds each or better, but this is almost strictly an after-dark affair as these fish are extremely cautious and shy from the noisy boat traffic that marks most days on the Sound. Daybreak and sunset sees an active spurt of topwater action with weakies at such places as Prospect Point and Sand's Point, especially when running tides coincide with those magic hours. At such lucky times, swimming plugs are damaging, as are those deadly plastic worms, fished slowly into the current. Baits are good too, those very same cut baits or whole worms we use for bass, as well as squid strips fished at mid-depths, and at times a bucktail jig adorned with a strip of squid will bring squets to the net when all else fails. Just remember that almost always, in night fishing, a slow retrieve will produce better than a fast one—be that with plugs, plastic baits, bucktails, or bait.

As we get into the dog days of July and August, game fishing is almost entirely restricted to nighttime activity, leaving daylight hours to the exclusive domain of the bottom bouncer once again. Now the slack is picked up by the appearance of fluke and porgies, which keep everyone happily occupied until bluefish invade the Sound on a semi-permanent basis, usually towards the latter part of August in the west. Porgies take clam and worm baits fished on rough bottom, such as mussel beds, and tandem-tied beak style hooks in fairly small sizes turn the trick. Such places as the Center Island reef, the Matinecock reef, or Mid Reef and the old CBS tower in the west are well known porgy spots, but almost any of the points on the north shore can usually produce for you just as well; e.g., Diamond Point, Eaton's, Lloyd's or even Mott's Point, just on the western edge of Hempstead Harbor. Here we heartily recommend a quiet approach, especially in shallow water, as porgies are notoriously boat and noise shy. Chumming will usually lure them to the vicinity of your baited hooks, and ground bunker or ground clam bellies used in conjunction with a chum pot is the way to go.

Fluke hug the beaches from as far east as Northport and love the rips formed off almost all of the points, from Diamond Point through Eaton's and Lloyd's, as far west as Sand's and Prospect, and are usually taken on bait fished from a drifting boat. Spearing, sand eels, killies, and other small baitfish, fished from long-leadered hooks with or without a strip of squid is the normally accepted bait, but a fresh fillet of fish flesh affixed to a bucktail jig every often will put fluke in your bucket when they play hard to get.

In the latter part of August the Sound is usually wall-to-wall bluefish, and these fierce battlers hog center stage, driving all thought of other species out of mind. Probably our most popular fish, the blue accommodates every style and technique known to anglers, from finicky fly rod addicts through trolling specialists, and from lure fanciers through bait users, and is within everyone's reach at one time or another—the boatmen as well as the shore fishermen. Baits and lures used for striped bass and weakfish work equally as well for bluefish, except that wire leaders are required out of respect to the bluefish's dentures—razor-sharp teeth that can slice through mono with ease. By this same token, soft plastic baits do not hold up very well either, although they can, and will work at times. Usually it's one fish, one plastic bait shot to hell, but some people think that the ends justify the means and actually have a ball catching bluefish on light and ultra-light tackle, using those plastic lures.

Deep reefs and points of land attract the bluefish for the same reasons weakfish and striped bass haunt them also: an abundance of forage near good cover or swift currents. Predators take advantage of all the odds in their favor, either holding a station off a rip or on the downtide side of boulders, waiting for unwary or helpless baitfish to pound upon. Bluefish usually don't lie in wait, but rather roam far and wide in their relentless search for food, literally chasing anything and everything that moves. Tranquil harbors might suddenly erupt in showers of spray as blues trap schools of bunker amid the buoys, or shoals of baitfish may suddenly become airborne along the beaches as the choppers raid on by. Scenes like this result in some pretty hectic fishing as anglers throw plugs, spoons, and diamond jigs at the rampaging terrors, and the rivalry between anglers to get a shot at the blues is only surpassed by the fierce competition between the bluefish to get at the bait. Popping plugs and topwater swimmers work well, as does any diamond jig or metal lure, bucktail or plastic-tailed jigs, and bait can do equally as well also. Whole, live bunker, fished in the vicinity of a school of its peers, can sometimes attract bluefish like no lure ever could, especially when that school of bait is under attack. Here the live bait is live-lined into the depths to hopefully attract a bluefish with its erratic struggling to gain the supposed safety of its school. At times, once again especially at night, cut bait can accomplish wonders, either live-lined at mid-depths or fished on or near the bottom on a fishfinder rig. The same chunks of mackerel and bunker we use for bass serve equally as well for bluefish also.

Well-known bluefish hotspots include the Center Island Reef, Purdy's Reef off Prospect Point, or Mid Reef off Orchard Beach. The deep waters of Execution Light, Stepping Stone Light, or under the Throg's Neck and Whitestone Bridges all host bluefish, as do the harbors, namely Huntington Harbor and Hempstead Harbor. Trollers work these deep areas with wire line and umbrella rigs, single tubes, or bucktails during the day, and at night the boys with bait take over. Flyrodders delight with these scrappers, presenting streamers to the reefs at dawn or dusk, or fishing a quiet backwater all alone at night. We

(Continued on next page.)

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chanced upon some happy fishing when we luckily discovered a solitary fisherman flyrodding the marshy shore between Manhasset and Port Washington one evening. Parking on Plandome Road, we watched what we assumed was a guy trying for school bass or possibly weakfish, and ate our hearts out as that lucky got got one nice bluefish after another, all in water that did not reach the top of his waders! There was none of the usual disturbances attributed to bluefish—no diving and screaming birds, no bait jumping, no water splashes, no crowd of eager fishermen—just one solitary guy that knew what he was doing!

September usually is a repeat of August's action, but as the month wanes and the waters cool, summer species decline as fall and winter fish start trickling in. Bottom fishing for porgies is good while fluke taper off and flounder and blackfish start coming on strong again. Bass usually start picking up after the full moon, and bluefish continue to please, with some really big fish showing up now, as the Sound fills once more with migrating bait. October usually ushers out the porgies, especially after a storm or two, and fall flounder and some big fall blackfish take priority for bottom bouncers. Sport fishermen must live for this month, because not only are big bluefish fairly abundant and active, stripers and weakfish once again go on a feeding binge, and pluggers spend both day and night trying for trophies with big lures. Once again, cut bait on bottom gets its fair share of takers too, and some really big fish come to gaff unheralded and unknown to all but a select few.

November is a repeat of October, with the emphasis on really big blackfish plus the big three of the inshore scene, and as the month wanes and the water gets colder the blackfish and the weakies depart, leaving the western Sound to the flounder pounder and the bluefish or striped bass addict. As the steady diet of night fishing threatens many otherwise happy marriages, fate steps in and saves a whole lot of us from becoming bachelors again. Just when things get hairy, it's near the end of the month and Thanksgiving Day is upon us. By this time most of our party boats call a halt to the season, and most marinas have all the boats belly-up on dry land once again. For some of us the fight goes on as we launch from deserted ramps or fish desolate beaches, but for most of us the long season has come to an end once again.

As you sit at home on Thanksgiving Day watching a football game or two, reflect for a moment on all the fun you had on the Sound the past season, and truly give thanks. As surely as that St. Paddy's Day parade ushered in a new season, the Macy's Thanksgiving Day parade signals the long season's end. Thank God for all those happy months between parades!

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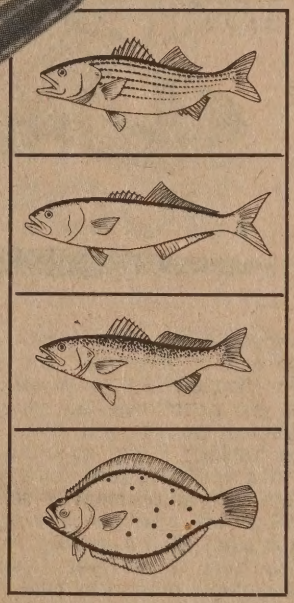

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AVOID BECOMING A PISCATORIAL PEST

by Einar F. Grell

Are you a piscatorial pest? Are you the type of fisherman who every so often has lead sinkers thrown at you? Do you sometimes hear curse words directed towards you when you are out fishing? Every so often do you find a whistling lure coming at you from a known or unknown source? Do you know anglers having these problems? If the answer to any of these questions is "yes," you may be becoming a piscatorial pest.

With more anglers on the water and on beaches seeking out what appear to be dwindling amounts of fish, it is important to all of us that we observe a few fishing courtesies so that we can all fish happly and successfully. For the newcomer to fishing and the old pro, a quick review of some basic fishing rules are described as they evolve from situations which occur repeatedly on our waters. I am sure that you will recognize many of the situations described.

The Trolling Problem: When fish are located at a particular spot in a productive rip, do you take your turn going over a particular piece of bottom in a clockwise manner, or do you troll contrary to the established pattern, causing crossed and fouled lines? By taking your turn within the established pattern developed by the fishing fleet, everyone will catch more fish.

The Chumming Problem: Do you troll through established chum lines to the point that you can hear the curses hurled towards you as you proceed to ruin someone else's fishing? Maybe you are the type of angler who trolls so close to neighboring boats that you reach the lead sinker "fall-out zone. Did it ever occur to you to purchase your own chum? Then you can set up your own fishing cafeteria!

Breaking Fish on the Surface: When fish appear on the surface at a particular spot and you witness a large group of boats working the perimeter of the school with casting outfits, do you roar into the middle of the fleet causing the school of fish to sound and scatter? You could have slowly and cautiously joined this group of casting anglers without bombing the productive fishing.

Spooky Species in a Particular Location: When you see an angler catching a spooky species such as weakfish in a drain or narrow tidal sluiceway, do you speed up to him and say "How's the fishing?" You know damn well that it was great at that spot until you arrived. If the angler gives you nothing more than a nasty look, consider yourself lucky inasmuch as you have just caused some good fishing to disappear with this type of behavior. I have had this type of situation occur hundreds of times by both knowing and unknowing anglers in the Great South Bay. With certain species of fish, the theme is "once spooked, forever spooked" and the fishing productivity never re-appears. Did it ever enter your mind to go find your own little piece of water and do your own thing or to drift quietly into another sector of this productive spot?

Trolling when you should be jigging: When everyone is jigging fish successfully in a particular location, are you the type of angler who decides to slowly troll ever so close to drifting boats loaded with jigging anglers? If you snagged a jigger's lure with your umbrella rig and only escaped with a harsh word, consider yourself blessed. If you trolled so close to a large party boat and snagged several jiggers' lures and escaped with your life, you are indeed living a charmed life. The rule here should be obvious. Join the jiggers or go find another body of fish.

Getting too close to a fish-on: Whether you are out in the Canyon fishing for big game fish or fishing the Great South or Peconic Bay for smaller species, are you the type of angler who gets in so close to see what is happening that you are interfering with the catching process of the angler who has a fish on? Do you realize that by getting too close you are driving the fish down and making the actual catching that much more difficult? In addition, your proximity could result in the fish being cut off. A neighboring angler gets too close, drops anchor and—lo and behold—my tiderunner cuts the line on his anchor. All this type of angler wants to do is drop in on your spot, anchor up and duplicate the feat. There is basically nothing wrong with this procedure as long as we leave a little room for the other guy. Remember that the boat with a fish on should have the right-of-way. Don't interfere. If you want to look, purchase binoculars. If the skipper or angler in the other boat needs help, I am sure that he will ask for it. Be a

spectator, not an interferer. In fishing for large species such as giant tuna, this is a basic fishing rule that must be adhered to at all times.

Chumming or Livelining: If you see a large group of trollers successfully catching fish in a specific spot, do not decide to set up your chum line here or proceed with livelining methods in the area. This is a cardinal violation. The temptation for newcomers to chum and liveline in these areas is great. If there is any procedure which can raise havoc with the fishing success of trollers, this is it. What you should do is obvious: troll.

Using light tackle when you should be using conventional: There are light tackle enthusiasts and medium to heavy tackle advocates. For the most part, in spite of the advantages of each method, they cannot be mixed. If everyone is using light tackle on a charter boat, the technique which is rarer than hobby horse manure, fine. Most often, however, they are using conventional tackle. There is nothing worse than a light tackle enthusiast fishing for large bluefish on a party boat when everyone is using conventional or heavy tackle. Conform to the fishing pattern that is taking place. If you want to go light, do so from your own boat. Light tackle fishing takes up much time and room which conventional party boats cannot afford since everyone wants to catch fish. They cannot do this when you hook up with a brute bluefish that requires everyone move aside for super sportsman. Even when fishing with friends in a small group, ask the skipper if it's okay to use your light tackle. If he and your companions allow you to do this they are indeed gracious and true friends, for they know when you get a fish on they will have to stop fishing for you to land the fish successfully.

Speeding by anchored fishermen: Passing anchored fishermen can ruin the fishing and can also be very dangerous. In a small navigational channel, such as the State Boat Channel, a small fishing boat could easily capsize or an angler could fall out of a small boat (possibly a youngster) and drown. If the wake causing such a catastrophe to occur was yours, I am sure you would never forgive yourself. The rule—when passing fishing boats, whether anchored or drifting—is to throttle down to a slow troll. The same procedure applies to your vessel when you are passing waterfront marinas or gas docks, especially large facilities such as those at Captree Boat Basin, Cedar Basin, or Gilgo. Every body of water has these facilities, so watch your speed. You are responsible for your wake as rapidly as it dissipates. If your wake is witnessed as being the cause of a marine accident or tragedy, you might wish that you never took up boating. The financial responsibilities and ramifications can be awesome, to say the least.

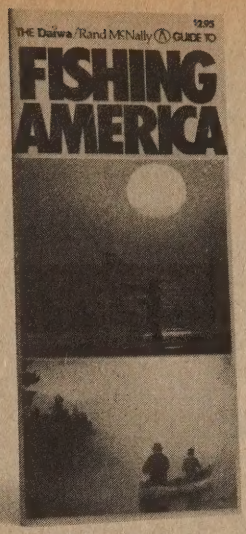
Playing the one-way CIA Agent: Are you the type of angler who wants the latest information on where the fish are without reciprocating. If you are an information taker and not a giver, it will only be a matter of time before you will be looked upon as a skunk at a lawn party. You will quickly learn that there is a lot of water out there and if you want to be a successful fisherman, you will sooner or later need to have some help from other fishermen who are at least your equals.

Being very vague with your friends as to where you think the fish are is a one-way street...a dead end. I'm not saying that you need to tell the world where the fish are, but you should practice reciprocity of knowledge where close friends are involved. Sharing fishing information also has the safety advantage of receiving help when you are broken down. You will never know when you need a tow job or mechanical expertise from a fishing buddy when your old stink-pot decides to conk out. Also, do not fall into the horrible habit of giving your buddies the wrong course headings when you are into fish. This could be the day when you break down and there is nothing more embarrassing or deceitful than to have your buddies looking for you in spot where you are not.

Surf Casters and Trollers: Do you troll so close to the beach that surf casters constantly berate you? Do you periodically find a cast plug flying over your boat en route to a school of fish that are further offshore than that of your trolling pattern? This is the mortal sin which trollers commit when they encroach upon the territory of the beach and surf boys. If you are guilty of this breach of fishing etiquette, you should probably sell your boat and join the guys on the beach. This situation can very easily and accidentally take place when you are casting from a drifting boat that because of wind and current set is carrying you towards surf casting territory. Be alert to the direction of your drift and stay away from the guys with their boots on.

Bridge Fishing: Whereas boatmen should stay away from pier and bridge fishermen, the occasion does arise when the angler aboard his boat must pass beneath a bridge. Bridge fishermen, although the temptation is oftentimes great to leave their lines in the water or drop lures into passing boats, should refrain from such and pull their lines from the water, allowing the boats to pass safely. To do otherwise is to interfere with navigation.

I'm sure I have only scratched the surface in presenting to you some situations for which there are some basic fishing rules or standard operating procedures which we all can adhere to for more successful and enjoyable fishing. Most of the basics mentioned are nothing more than putting into action some plain old common sense.



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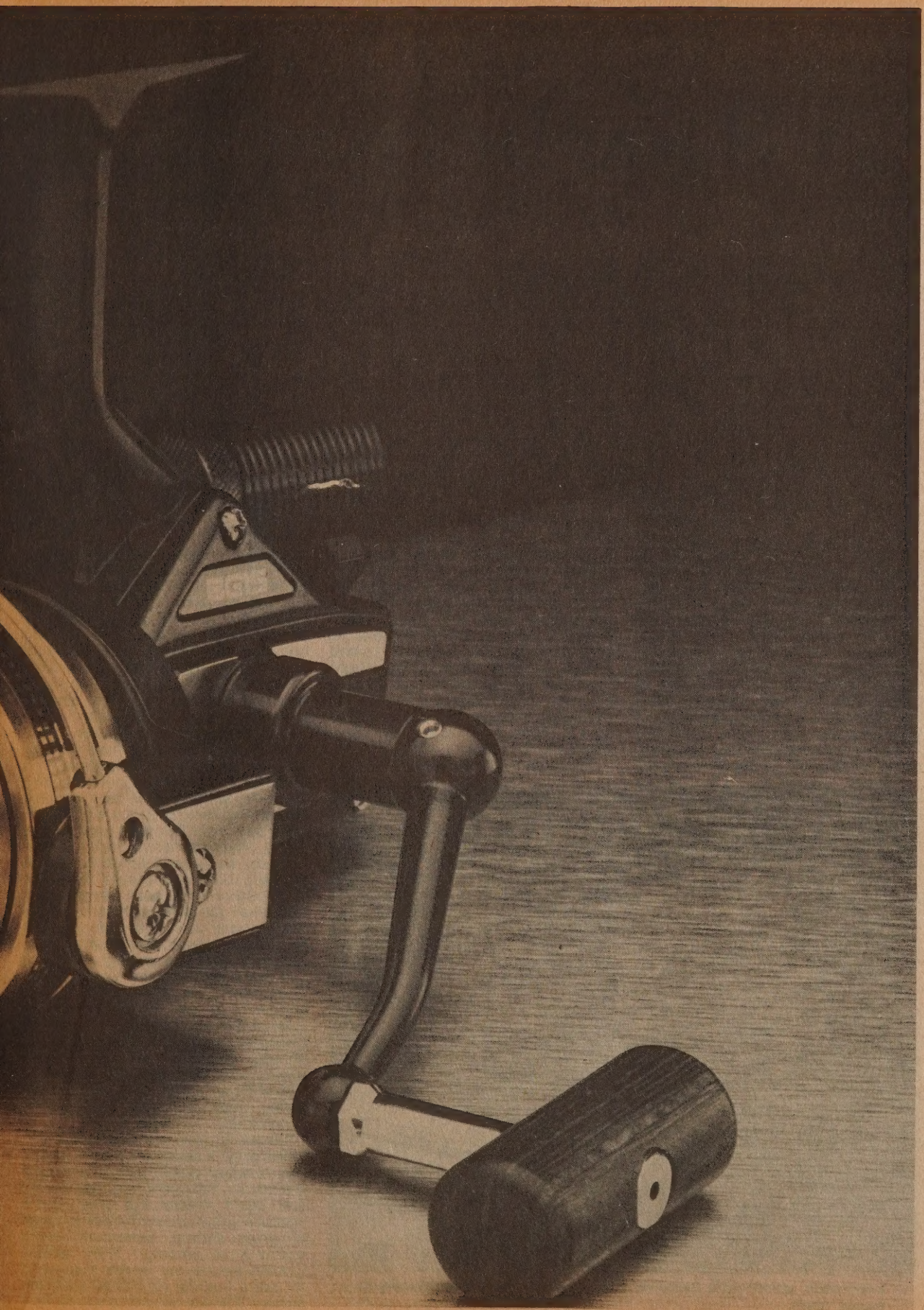


WEAKFISH: A Basic Introduction

by Gerald Hahn

Weakfish, like all species of concern to anglers, come in two sizes: small and large. Although smaller fish are nondescriptly referred to as "regulars," larger ones seem to possess more colorful names: snowshoes, humpbacks, bulldogs, alligators, cows. Of course, weakfish are no exception; large ones are appropriately dubbed "tiderunners," for their tendency to be active during moving water. In other regions, however, this distinction is less appealing than yellowfin, drummer, spotted sea trout, or the Narragansett Indian name, "squeteague." Even the derivation of the word "weakfish" is questionable. Some say it comes from the Dutch "weekvis," a sign that they may have been the first to detect the fish's tender mouth. Others, however, say that the name originally was "wheat fish," the species being most abundant around harvest time. Whatever one chooses to call them, weakfish are one of the most beautiful species in the salt: long, well-proportioned predators with irregular spots on the dorsal side, flashes of orange-yellow on their fins, and spectral tones glistening on their sides. What sticks in the mind are the purple, gold, and silver hues so characteristic of the fish.

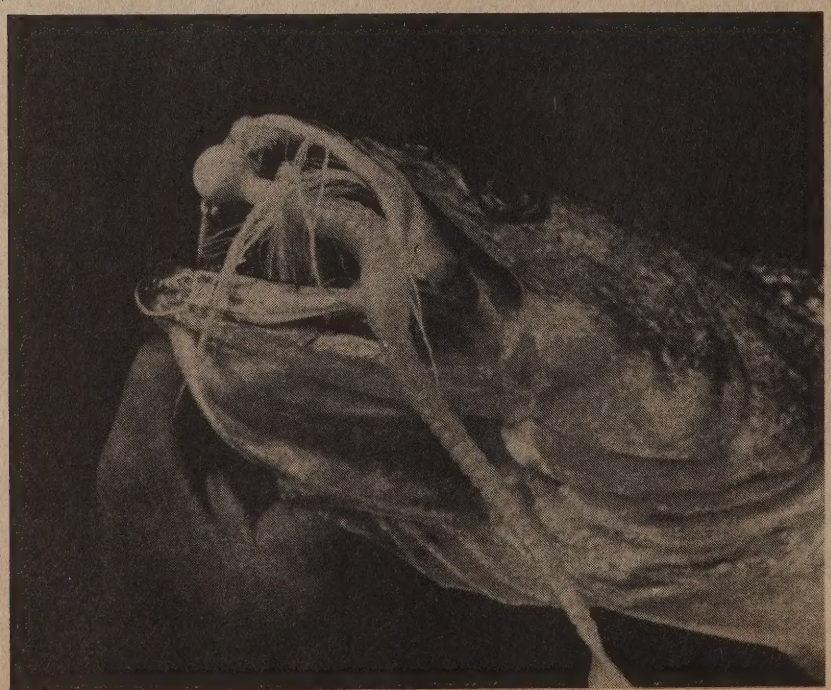
Small weakfish, from two to four pounds, predominate in the summer, but large weakfish weighing five to ten pounds or more, are caught during the migrating periods, primarily in the spring and to a lesser extent, in the fall. Tiderunners enter Great South Bay and Peconic Bay in May, and the run lasts two to four weeks. A little later, they show up in Long Island Sound, where they are taken sporadically throughout the summer in low light or at night. During the spring run, weakfish appear mainly around tidal changes—from about 1½ hours before to 1½ hours after slack water, even in midday. Once the water warms, however, dawn, dusk or night are better fishing periods. After the tiderunners leave the bays, small weakfish replace them. Like the large ones near the end of the run, small weaks are best taken in low light combined with a tidal change. Almost all of the south shore bays, as well as the eastern bays, and Long Island Sound, have their share of small weakfish.

Although weakfish are a schooling species, they are difficult to catch. That their numbers have declined significantly is one reason. Another is that weakfish are frequently found in the same areas as bluefish, and of the two species, the quicker, more aggressive blue usually gets to the bait or lure first. Moreover, even when bluefish are not around, weaks are consistently erratic; they may show up in one spot in the morning and at another spot at the next tidal change. Finally, weaks are difficult to catch because they require delicate handling. The mouths of weaks may be substantial, but they are also rather fragile. Sock it to a weak, and you will lose it.

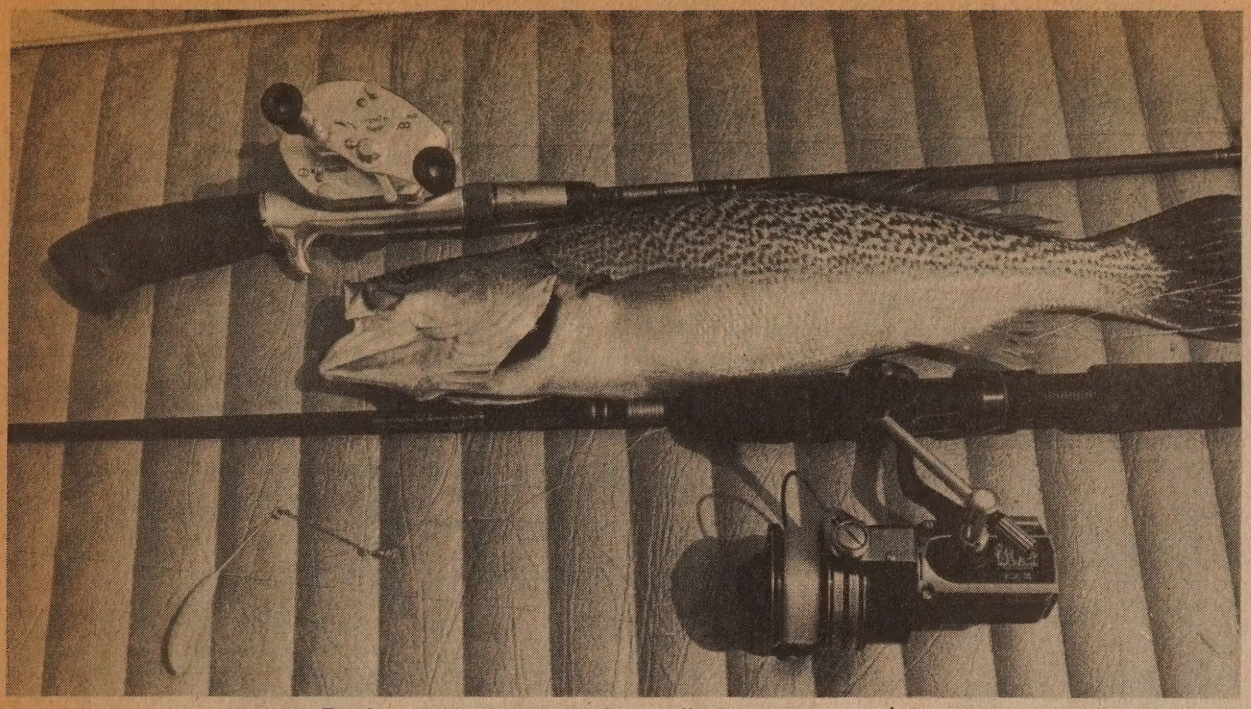
For these reasons, the angler going for weakfish should select his tackle carefully. A light "whippy" spinning rod, six to seven feet long, with a flexible tip, yet a strong butt section, is the best choice. A matching spinning reel should be filled with eight to ten pound test for the best combination of strength and lightness. Baitcasting tackle of similar caliber will work just as well.

Weakfish may be caught on artificials or bait. Today, the most popular lure for weakfish is a leadhead jig with a soft plastic body. The bodies come in various sizes and shapes, resembling shrimp, grubs, seaworms, and baitfish. Favored colors are white, fluorescent red and yellow, although some days, darker hues such as deep blue and purple have the edge. Other lures, such as metal jigs and small plugs have their moments also. In fact, you never can tell what may tempt a weak. For example, one day, two years ago, during the spring run in Peconic Bay, an experimental angler returned early to the fishing station. He had caught a dozen tiderunners on all-yellow leadhead bucktails, and the hairs were in shreds. Whatever lures you prefer should be on the small side, generally less than an ounce, and tied directly to the main line with an improved clinch knot.

Weakfish are voracious eaters. Their prey includes sand eels, spearing, shedder crabs, mollusks, young menhaden, snappers, shrimp, worms and squid. Years ago when Long Island's salt marshes harbored acres of grass shrimp, fishermen would chum with shrimp. They would dribble the shrimp in the water and let out a floating rig baited with the same. Weaks would rise to the



Leadheads, paired with flavored, plastic worms, have been deadly in recent years.



Freshwater tackle is ideal for small, summer-run weaks.

surface and eat the shrimp like candy. Today, however, with fewer weakfish and more boats around, most fishermen use a strip of squid or a whole sandworm on a high-low rig fished near the bottom. Two 2/0 Beak or Claw hooks, or longer-shanked O'Shaughnessies or Carlisles, snelled on long (3' to 4') leaders of 30 lb. test, are connected to the main line or to a long leader (also 30 lb. test) on a three-way swivel. An end loop is tied at the bottom for a one to three ounce bank sinker, and a dropper loop three to six inches above holds the bottom hook. The top hook is slipped through the third eye of the swivel, so that the two hooks clear each other. Sometimes, a fish finder rig with a single hook works better. Here, an egg sinker is slipped on the main line above a barrel swivel, to which the snelled hook is attached. A single hook rig may be fished nearer the surface by simply attaching a small rubber core sinker a foot or two ahead of the hook.

A long pennant shaped strip of squid, with the skin removed, is impaled once near the wide end, permitting it to stream in the current. Similarly, a whole sand worm is threaded over the eye of the hook, so that it dangles freely. A squid head with the tentacles intact, on a treble hook, is also effective. Weaks like their baits long. But since they can be fussy, I use one of each bait on the high-low rig, preferably the worm above and the squid below. If bait stealers are around, the squid will hold up longer against them. Besides, most weakfish strike the top hook. Other baits to consider are live snappers, spearing, sand eels, or a strip of menhaden.

Drifting is the best method to catch weakfish, small or large. Similar to fishing for fluke, the idea is to drift over a likely area, and when a hit occurs, to drift over the same spot again. About 100' of line is payed out as the boat begins to drift, and the baited rig may be held still or jigged slowly, bumping it along the bottom. Lures can also be worked this way or cast ahead of the drifting boat and retrieved **slowly**. Remember, weaks are not blues.

Good drifting spots in Peconic Bay and Great South Bay are located near deep channels, dropoffs, sandbars, tide rips, and flats, in depths from six to thirty feet. In Peconic Bay, popular drifting areas are at Cow Neck, South Race, the west side of Robins Island, Rose's Grove, Jessup's Neck, and the west and south sides of Shelter Island. In Great South Bay, well known weakfish haunts are at Ocean Cove, Snake Hill Channel, West Channel, Dickerson Channel, the Lighthouse to Fire Island Inlet stretch, and the Heckscher flats. On the north shore, weakfish are taken in the rips at Lloyd's Neck and Eaton's Neck, just beyond the tidal flats off Marshall Field. In the Port Jefferson area, they are taken from Mount Misery Point eastward past a prominent pink "mansion" situated on a bluff overlooking the Sound.

If drifting is not productive, an alternative is to anchor up in a quiet place (if possible these days) and chum for weakfish. Tie up near a sand bar, a rip, or over a weed bed near patches of sandy bottom, lower a chum pot filled with ground bunker, and work the baited rig near the pot. If weakfish are in the vicinity, they will follow the chum slick upcurrent to the baited rig.

Many anglers like to combine weakfishing with fishing for other species: fluke, flounders, porgies, or blackfish. Since fluke fishing is so similar to weakfishing, the same baits and rigs will attract both species, the major difference being that fluke will probably strike the bottom hook. For porgies or flounder, however, a tandem rig below with #1 Beaks or Claws, should be substituted for the bottom hook intended for weakfish. Small piece of clam or worm will attract them, whether by drifting or from an anchored boat, without losing out on a potential weakfish. Similarly, blackfish can be caught while weakfishing, but with a slightly different tandem rig below. Here, two #6 Virginia hooks are used and baited with clams, worms, or crabs. In all cases, the top hook is retained for the weakfish. When other predators, such as bluefish or mackerel, are mixed in with the weaks, bring along a second rod. Use bait for the weaks and metal lures, bucktails, or mackerel trees for the others.

When a weakfish hits your bait or lure, it will make a short, though erratic run. Sometimes, the fish may decide to move toward you faster than you are retrieving, and care must be taken to avoid slack in the line. The limber rod tip and lightly set drag will hold the fish, so long as the line is kept tight. A large landing net should be ready for all weakfish over three pounds.

For the small boat angler, weakfishing, even during this cyclical downturn, is a worthwhile effort. Catching a ten pound tiderunner from a small boat should not be missed. Nor should fishing for the smaller, tastier "regulars." Large or small, weakfish are a treat.

MONTAUK
★ BEST BET ★
COD

Capt Wayne King of the charter boat **King Wayne** called to say that Friday and Saturday saw respectable cod and pollack catches for his parties. Friday's trip for Jim Meehan of the Point Jeff Moose caught cod and pollack on bait and diamond jigs at the CIA grounds and Cartwright. Pollack went to 28 lbs. Saturday's charter for L&L Chemical and Construction with a good catch of cod and pollack fishing south of the Point and at Cartwright. The pool fish was a 47 lb. cod, the biggest that the boat has ever had while fishing Cartwright.

Capt Mike of the charter boat **Montauk** called to say that the boat is in the water and ready to fish. He says the cod looks excellent and big pollack are showing very well now at the CIA grounds and the SW Ledge areas. Catches are getting better and better every day and with some calm weather, should be excellent.

This 55 lb. cod was bagged by Mark Belatoni on Montauk's C.I.A. Grounds. It was taken aboard the "Big Blue" and weighed at Montauk Marine Basin.

SOUTH FORK
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

SHINNECOCK

Capt Clark II reports excellent flounder fishing this past week in Peconic Bay. Friday Capt. Clark's granddaughter, Debra Garstrong of Hampton Bays, age 10, got the first fish on the boat and ended up with 14 good sized fish. Saturday Stan and Marge Closter of Smithtown got 24 fish between them. and they were 1 to 2 lbs. On Sunday Jim McKeever of Long Bach and Tom Iverson of Oceanside loaded up with 28 flatties with Jim the pool winner with a 2 pounder. The boat fished south Jamesport and Robins Island area when the tide was right. Capt Clark reminds his customers that he moved to a new location on the canal. The boat is now at the SE corner of Montauk Hwy Bridge.

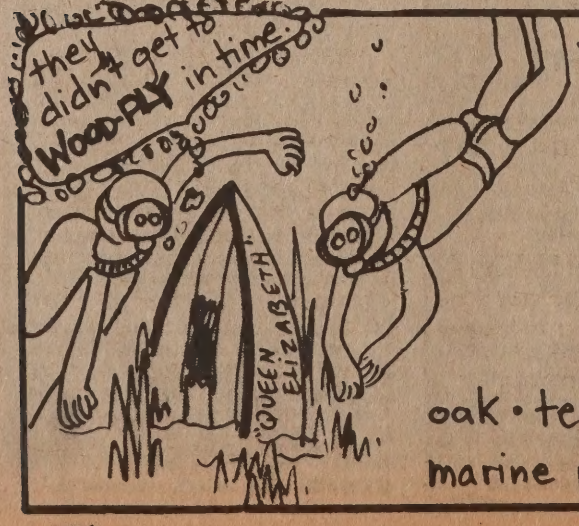
MORICHES BAY

Larry at **L&M Marine** reported that the fish are there in good supply, but the wind remains the biggest factor. Over the weekend, a couple of boats returned with scores of 80 to 90 fish despite the wind. All of the fish are good sized with lots in the 1 lb. class. Best spots have been buoy 44 and 42 and sand worms and mussels along with mussel chum is the ticket. On Sunday, station regular Frank Guzman fished buoy 44 and returned with a catch of 60 flatties up to 2 lbs.

Al at **Hi-Way Fishing Station** dittoed Larry's report of the wind creating difficult fishing conditions. Despite it, the high hook catch on Saturday was 91 flounder made at buoys 43, and 44 by Milo Mistina and two friends. The station's Easter weekend flounder contest was settled by Bill Wordell, who had a 1 lb. 14 oz. flattie. Look for the station's Memorial Day weekend contest which will include prizes for both fluke and flounder. Getting back to the flounder fishing, Al said boats that stuck it out despite the wind were the ones that returned with good catches. He used Charles Payne of Cl and two friends who had over 100 flatties on Sunday as an example. The trio was the last boat back to the station.

Skidmore's Fishing Station reports that Friday and Saturday was tough going due to the wind. Some boats managed 40 to 50 fish, but Sunday's

Charles Mehes, Barry Sherman and Leonard Sherman with 47 flounder taken on worms and mussels in Seatuck Cove.



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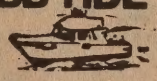

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fishing was better. Jim said that Dave Roys of East Setaucket accounted for 55 flatties single-handledly fishing northeast of buoy 42 using heavy mussel chum and mussel bait. Action was hot in the same area Monday morning.

Gary at **Silly Lily Fishing Station** said that catches ranged anywhere from 5 to 40 fish per boat. Best spots have been Haven's Point and buoy 41 on incoming tide. Worms and mussels have both been effective baits.

Tadsen's Fishing Station reported plenty of fish for the rentals, but the wind has made it tough, especially for the non-regulars. The prospect of some really super action is there with just a few days of mild winds needed to set it off. Despite the wind, a few good catches were made by those who stuck it out off of the brown house and at buoys 29 and 27.

HAMPTON BAYS

John Mangini of **Corr's Fishing Station** spoke of a quiet weekend due to Easter Sunday and Saturday's wind. Some decent scores were made during the week, however, but most impressive was the quality of the fish. On Friday, Al Naab and Charlie Lutz returned with just 14 flatties from the buoy 17 area, but all were in the 1½ lb. range. Dawn Morgse demonstrated what is possible when conditions permit proper fishing. The lone angler returned from a trip to Heady Creek earlier in the week with a one-man catch of 106 flatties.

Jim at **Altenkirch's Bait and Tackle** said that flounder fishing has been fair, but reminded that wind has hindered the fishing. Those being taken are the finest kind in the size department, with the Basket Area and Heady Creek producing best for boatmen using worms and mussels. Jim added that he is still waiting to see the season's first weakfish and mackerel.

GREAT SOUTH BAY
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

MASTIC BEACH

Gary reported from **Stiriz' Fishing Station** that flatfishing took a turn for the better this past week, with the best action on the south side of buoy 20. A lot of fish came from this location during the week, while buoy 12 produced good numbers of fish also. The weekend's best catch was made by Fred Stewart and Harold Benson who worked the incoming tide at buoy 20 to the tune of 130 keepers,

the largest being 1 lb. 10 oz. Bloodworms, mussels and clams have all been taking fish and corn and mussel chum are required to make the big scores.

OAKDALE

Dave at **J&N Sport Center** spoke of a catch of 35 flounder from 3/4 to 1½ lbs. made between Ocean Beach and Cherry Grove on worms and clam chum by Chuck Pleickhardt and two friends aboard the Lucylin. Also on Saturday, Toni Ann Fiorillo weighed in a 2 lb. 10 oz. brown trout which she took from Sayville's Brown's River on a Panther-Martin spinner. No weakfish news yet, although a couple of guys tried over the weekend.

EAST ISLIP

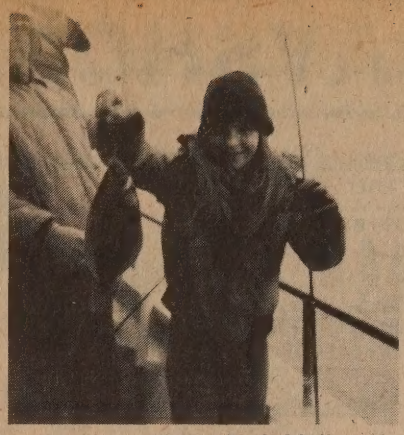
From **Peppy's Bait and Tackle** Smitty told of a catch of 24 big flounder in the 1 to 1¾ lb. class made at buoy 2 by Peter Sindone and Sam Gershawl. The pair used sand worms and mussels and mussel chum. Fishing was done on Sunday. Also on Easter Sunday, John Stine stopped by to show a catch of 18 flatties made in the State Channel on bloodworms and mussel chum. A couple of guys tried for the first week of the season on Sunday with no success.

BAY SHORE

Carl reported from **Smokey's Bait and Tackle** that while flounder fishing has only been fair, the fish have been real good size. Dickerson channel and West Channel have both been productive. Worms, clams and mussels effective as bait. On Friday, Bay Shore Tuna Club member Fred Wills ran east to Patchogue and returned to put a 2 lb. 11 oz. flattie on the scale. Fred used mussels to take the fish.

CAPTREE

From his **Captree Bait Station**, Noel reported that the open boat fleet has received a very good response to the Natural Lite Flounder Derby currently under way in Captree. First place winner this week was Danny Santini who took a 1 lb. 15 oz. flattie on the Captree Queen. Danny was awarded a Shakespeare Ugly Stick and Penn Jigmaster reel. Laura Pospisil copped second place with a 1 lb. 12 oz. flattie. She also fished aboard the Captree Queen and took home a Daiwa 50H reel. Daily prize-winners receive #7620 Plano tackle boxes. The open boat fleet has been working anywhere from the Sore Thumb in the inlet east beyond Point O'Woods. Fish are being taken on both worms and clams, but the wind has kept catches down in recent days. Noel put in a word for casters who have been working the shore of the old inlet at Cedar Beach and doing a job on big flounder. Sandworms are the ticket in this area. For pier fishermen, Noel said that the Captree Overlook pier and the Jones Beach Piers are producing some fish on bloodworms and clams.



Ten-year-old Ms. Ruth Mullowney displays her first flounder. The young lady accomplished the feat aboard the Captree open boat "Speedy VII."

Captain Speedy Hubert of the **Speedy Fleet** asked us to relay word to his customers that he will begin mackerel fishing with the **Speedy VI**, 7AM on Saturday, April 25. Also beginning 4-25, the **Speedy VII** will take over the two trip a day flounder schedule.

The charter boat **Eleanor** reported fair flounder fishing for a party from Paine-Webber on Friday and Chemical Bank on Saturday. Largest flattie of the weekend was 1 lb. 11 oz. but most of the fish taken were in the 1 lb. class. Red-dyed clams turned out to be more effective than worms on both days.

The charter boat **Blue Albatross II** reported a catch of over 200 flounder for 20 members of the Ingraham Fishing Club of New Hyde Park on Saturday. Fishing was done in the vicinity of the Sore Thumb, with nearly all of the fish in the 1 to 1½ lb. class. Pool fish was taken by Bill Hannan, while Richie Birmingham took high hook honors.

Captain Charlie Kennedy of the open boat **Bob Joseph** passed along word that he will begin a new sailing time of 8AM daily. He also said to keep an eye out for upcoming 4PM mackerel trips which will include five hours fishing time.

BABYLON

From **Charlie's Fishing Station**, Margaret reported a good day on Saturday with big fish out front on the east-west channel. The Maresca family returned to the station with 30 flounder averaging 1 to 1½ lbs. Anthony Soma fishing in a rental boat also did well with big flounder. Best bait has been bloodworms and corn and mussel chum are necessary for the better catches.

Ski from **Augie's Tackle** described the flounder fishing in general as good east of the bridge. He named Dickerson Channel, Bay Shore flats and West Channel as being a few of the better producers. While the wind hurt Saturday's fishing and the Easter holiday restricted Sunday's turnout, catches have been averaging 20 to 25 nice fish per boat. Both mussels and bloodworms have been effective baits and mussel chum is important.

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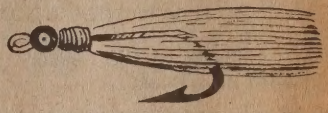

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SOUTH SHORE BAYS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

LINDENHURST

Mike reported from **Lindenhurst Bait and Tackle** that Rich Schuppert and Ernie Hyndman fished Squaw Island on Saturday and returned with 18 flatties up to 1¼ lbs. The pair used bloodworms and mussel chum. Mike described the action in the Squaw Island-West Island area as fair, with worms, clams and mussels all producing and chum being a big help.

AMITYVILLE

George Combs Bait and Tackle described the local flounder fishing as the best in several years in terms of size, with plenty of 1 lb. class fish making up the catches. George reported fair action near West Island and Squaw Island, but reported better action at Gilgo and the State Channel. Jeff White fished the latter location over the weekend and put away 65 big flatties using sand worms and mussel and corn chum. George also noted that sand worms seem to have gained an edge in the bait department this past week. Straying from flounder for a moment, one customer reported a catch of four mackerel Sunday morning at the Whistle buoy and netters have taken a couple of school bass along the beach in recent days. No word yet on weakfish.

SEAFORD

From **Pop's Fishing Station** John reported that flounder fishing has been fair, but the wind has kept catches down this past week. Few of the more productive spots have been the drain just south of Four Corners, east of the first and second Wantagh bridges and Massapequa Cove which continues to be the best bet. Worms and mussels and mussel or corn chum result in the best scores.

Captain Brian of the open boat **Chinco** reported good flounder fishing over the weekend with catches numbering in the thirties. Fish range anywhere from 1/2 up to 1¾ lbs. with very few throwbacks. Bloodworms have been accounting for most of the fish at the first and second Wantagh bridges. Outgoing water has pro-

duced the best action.

Captain Neil Delanoy of the Bay Shore open boat **Casey Lee** reported the fishing was tough all week, but action on Sunday was good with catches of 15 to 20 flatties a man not unusual. Neil moved a number of times and had fish on every drop using worms and clams.

BELLMORE

The singing dog at **Merrick Tackle** talks of fairly good flounder action continuing in Merrick Bay both in Rowboat Alley and Merrick Point along with the Jones Beach piers. Worms appear to be doing the best job and chumming is a necessity.

MERRICK

Jimmy at **Nick's Fishing Station** says that his rental skiffs had good catches Friday but that the weekend was only fair due to weather conditions and a stirred up bottom. Boats have been having catches ranging from fair to excellent as it appears that there are scattered patches of flounders and if you land on top of them, its a hay day. Rowboat Alley seems to be slowing down a little. The channel connecting the Golf Course and Merrick Point has been productive this week.

BALDWIN

Jack at **Arthur Street Fishing Station** tells of a very productive weekend. Seventy five flounders were taken by two men in one private boat fishing the holes off Boces and in Scow Creek on Friday with worms and mussel chum. Generally average catches have been 20 per boat, fish averaging 1 lb. Mussels have been working best with the area of the Golf Course in Reynold's Channel being productive also. Some fish were also taken at Garrett's Lead.

WEST END
SOUTH SHORE
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

FREEPORT

Capt Sy Karlin of the **Blue Fin Fleet** says that the **BF II and BF III** fished Reynold's Channel Saturday along with adjacent waters and picked flounders up to 1½ lbs. on mussel, worm and red dyed clam. The afternoon had better tides and therefore catches were better late in the day. On the **BF III** the pool was split by Tom McCormick of Oceanside and Clem Ferraro of Levittown. High hook was Peter Ferraro. Aboard the **BF II** skippered by Capt Tony DiLernia, the pool fish hit 1½ lbs. for Armond Maroukn of Rego Park. High hook honors were shared by Joe and Pam Andre of Elmont. Last Saturday's charter for Xerox Corp saw Dave Eaton of England on the **BF II** taking high hook honors with a catch of flounders in the mid twenties. The skipper says he has some choice openings for week day mackerel trips available.

Capt Richie of the **Starstream II** this past week had fair catches of cod, a couple of pollack and blackfish. However, as you read this, the boat has switched to mackerel fishing daily at 6:30 a.m. The skipper will be taking the "Mackerel Express" in the area of Ambrose which is just a quick trip to the SW for him. The reports have been of big Bostons moving up, running to 3 lbs.

The **Capt Al** tells of a good Saturday and an excellent Sunday with his fares banging a way at fat flounders at Squaw Island. Len Reis had 20 flounders featuring a 2 lb. 8 oz. beauty while R. Rogers boated 39 keepers up to 1 lb. 8 oz. The boat is now switching to mackerel, sailing at 6:30 a.m. daily. Al says the macks were solid at Klondike Thursday and Friday, were at Augie's Knoll Saturday and by Sunday were at the Fire Island buoy. Looks like another mackerel season is at hand.

The **Capt Bill**, with his half-day flounder trips has been catching to the tune of 5 to 15 keepers per man, the size of the catch dependent upon

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Warren Janda and Tony Losi with part of a catch of 60 flounder to 2 lbs. made on local flats. Photo courtesy Ed's Fishing Station in Pt. Lookout.

the skills and abilities of the man behind the rod. Outgoing and low slack have been best this past week for fish up to 2½ lbs. Fish averaged over 1 lb. Sunday but you had to work for them. Bill has been working the mouth of Reynold's Channel and Swift Creek. Mussels and worms have been working best but clams are accounting for the biggest fish.

Capt Jim of the **Super Spray II** tells of excellent flounder catches Sunday on the 2 half-day trips, with Jack Seba bagging 18 keepers on the afternoon trip. Saturday on the afternoon trip 8 yr. old David Klinghoffer and Dad fished with David catching 8 flounders himself. Jimmy says he will probably be mackerel fishing by the weekend as the big Bostons are moving up fast.

Capt Morty of the charter boat **Sand Pearl** says that Wednesday's charter for Trudy Fiterstein and group had a solid catch of flounders from ¾ to 1½ lbs. in Baldwin Creek.

The **Capt Gary** called to report that Friday's charter for Helman Construction Corp had a slow pick of flounders in the morning by the afternoon came alive with high hook honors by Lou Bieler Jr. with 45 keepers along with a 2½ lb. pool fish. Very few throwbacks. Gary fished Reynold's Channel off the Golf Course plus Garrett's Lead. The skipper says he has choice Saturdays open in May. Friday's catch nearly hit 200 fish, averaging 1¼ lbs. Four fish went to 2 lbs. that day.

The **Capt Lou III** reports excellent flounder fishing in the early part of the week on the full day boat. Tuesday saw Bob Shanks of Glendale bagged 38 keepers. James Domena of Queens Vil. scored with 32 while Harry Stammers had 30 flounders. On Wednesday Westbury angler Sal Disconti bagged 39 fish. On Sunday Vic Esposito of Carnisle had 46. Dick of Atlantic Tires in Freeport smiled with 49 flounders including 6 double headers and 1 triple header. Carlo Rizzo of Oceanside was happy with 60 flounders. These were all nice sized mixed fish up to 2 lbs. The **Capt Lou IV**, the half-day boat, had very good catches all week said Mike. Sunday afternoon's trip saw Mike Schimada and Tom Kanashima of Hicksville,

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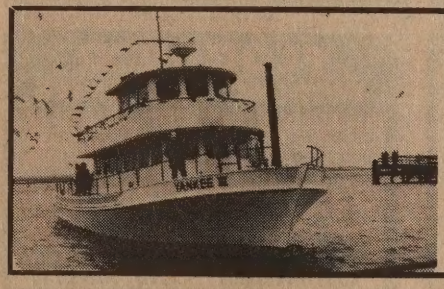

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score with 41 flounders between them. Nick Kutschera of Bayside had 22. Joe Harrison, Willis Jordan and Garfield Beady all of Queens, had 69 fish among them. Friday and Saturday was a little slower due to weather and bottom conditions. Mike says that he is presently the only boat sailing full day flounders aboard the **III**.

Lou's Fishing Station told us on Monday morning that he heard over the VHF that the **Startream II** was bailing mackerel 3 at a time at Ambrose. This was Monday, April 20th while we were taking the latest fishing reports. The **Capt Al** has swung over to mackerel also and will be in on the action. Lou expects flounders to pick up strong again with a break in the weather. Best areas have been Middle Bay, Hewlett Harbor and Squaw Island. On Saturday, the gillnetters were getting a combination of weaks, macks, small but keeper bass and bunker, indicating a strong season ahead.

Anthony's Fishing Station says flounder catches have been fair all week for skiffs fishing between Highflats drain and the mouth of Freeport canal. Merrick Bay off the Golf Course and Swift Creek have also been producing.

POINT LOOKOUT

Marilyn at **Ed's Fishing Station** gritted her teeth through another windy weekend and reports that Friday Rick Noble and Shawn O'Neil of Bayridge caught 111 flounders in Reynold's Channel between buoys 17 and 19. Middle Bay also produced with incoming tide best. Worm or mussel on the hook was the ticket. For those that know the area catches of 40 to 50 per skiff have been about average.

Scotty's Fishing Station reports that the best catches all this past week have been in Reynold's Channel, buoys 15, 16 and 17. The boat No Problem had 83 good flounders Sunday fishing that part of the channel. The flats off Reynold's Channel are also producing on mussel, worm and clam.

ISLAND PARK

Beckmann's Tackle in Lynbrook tells of continued excellent flounder catches over the weekend with just about all of his customers doing well. Charlie says fishing any where in Reynold's Channel between Jones Inlet and East Rockaway Inlet there are loads of flounders. Folks are catching them off of the Magnolia Ave. Pier also from ¾ to 1½ lbs. The back creeks are also producing. The big thing to remember is that YOU'VE GOT TO CHUM. Even pier fishermen are learning that a chum pot lowered into the water directly under them can give them greatly increased catches. Fishing has been so good says Charlie that one customer gave him 5 lbs. of flounder fillets.

"J-Bay Boat Rental" sent along this photo of Charles Bolte and Joseph Gandolfo with 41 flounder taken near Kennedy Airport on bloodworms. The pair chummed with mussels and corn.

Capt Clem of the **Commodore** says Friday's fishing was very good with the halfway decent weather. Catches averaged 20 keepers a man. The weekend was good also with the skipper fishing in the back for mixed sized flounders. The main channels are doing well also. The area off Doxsee Sea Clam, buoy 18, the Lido Golf Course, have been very good. Clem says the hot spots vary from day to day so you end up bouncing around. The fish are still in the mud, carrying up mud on their bellies. Lots of shrimp in the water along with schools of sand eels. The peak flounder fishing is coming up.

LONG BEACH

Long Beach Sports Marina reports plenty of flounders all over Reynold's Channel with hot spots being both sides of the RR trestle, Cement block and buoy 5 across from the Firehouse. The Atlantic Beach Bridge on both ends has also been a winner for flounders. Bob Newlin and Jeff Lyons of East Rockaway fished the RR trestle taking 47 flatties up to 1½ lbs. Bob Walsh and Gene Frank of Freeport scored with 32 fish up to 1¼ lbs. All boats averaged 20 to 30 fish per boat with worm/mussel combos working best. Chumming is a must and both tides are working. Two bass have been heard of off Malibu from the beach on sand worms, of 18" and 23".

EAST ROCKAWAY

Skippy's Bait & Tackle reports this is the best flounder fishing in years with the hot area this week being between Duck Point and the Cement Block plus Hog Channel. The fish are in deeper water now. Reynold's Channel is holding fish of mixed sizes averaging 1 lbs. Any baits are working with sand worms and mussels best, both tides. 147 floun-

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ders was the reward for Joe Bugusky and two pals fishing Cement Block. A few blackfish being caught off the jetties and at some inshore flounder spots.

JAMAICA BAY

J Bay Boat Rental tells us that on Friday one of their rentals filled a 5 gallon pail full of flounders at buoy 25 on the ebb with mussel chum a big factor. On Saturday another skiff had 22 flounder between 1 and 1½ lbs. off NW Point which is between Kennedy Airport and the Inwood Country Club. Fish have been moving into the flats on high tide.

Cross Bay Bait & Tackle reports that mixed flounder and eels continue to be taken from both the North and South Channel Bridges on worm and clam bait.

SHEEPSHEAD BAY

Capt Walter of the **Flamingo III** tells us that Sunday's flounder fishing was very good with one customer scoring with 46 fish in 1 hr. and 40 min. Red hot fishing over in a Jersey flounder hole. Other than that the other days of the week have been fair. Walter hopes to be mackerel fishing by the weekend and as a matter of fact, it's a near certainty. Fish have been caught at Barnegat and Manasquan and are moving up rapidly... big Bostons. The boat's sailing time for mackerel is 6:30 a.m. daily.

Capt Tom, the regions blackfish specialist, had excellent blackfishing Friday and Sunday off the Jersey Shrewsbury Rocks. Fares are creaming blackfish up to 8 lbs. to the tune of 20 to 40 per man with green crabs working best. The boat has green crabs avalable as bait aboard. The fish are averaging 2 to 3 lbs.

Neil at **Stella Maris Tackle** reports plenty of flounders being caught off Jersey and in Jamica Bay and from the Silver Hole Jetty. Blackfish are being caught on the mussel beds and at the Marine Pkwy Bridge and mackerel are moving closer everyday.

STATEN ISLAND

Santo's Sport Shop says its stripers and flounders in the news with Stapleton piers numbers 8, 12 and 17 producing very well on flounders from ½ to ¾ lbs. Very good quantities of keepers though half the fish brought up are midgets. Scattered flounder catches from South Beach to Princess Bay. An 11 lb. striper was the reward Saturday for Larry Smolka. He had 8 stripers but only 1 keeper. Fishing is off the beaches on high outgoing on sand worms. From South Beach to Princess Bay striped bass reports are scattered. Try a slow retrieve with Rebels or Red Fins at Great Kills Harbor and at the Bogs. Boat fishermen after flounders are catching anywhere from 30 to 100 fish per boat from Annandale to Wolf Park Pond. A scattering of blacks are showing and it should take hold in about a week.

PECONICS & GARDINERS
★ BEST BET ★
FLOUNDER

GREENPORT

Charterboat **Nancy Ann** reports the weekend charter for the Elks Fishing Club totaled 160 flounder from 1 to 1½ lbs. fishing in the Sound at Petty's Bight and Orient. Catches were on worms, mussel and clam.

The **Peconic Star** had a high hook Friday of 35 keeper flounders for Mike Angerami of W. Islip with Frank also bagging the pool with a 1¾ pounder.

AP White Bait Shop reports excellent flounder catches off East Marion in the Bay and in LI Sound at Orient, Petty's Bight and Truman Beach. Surfcasters are getting floun-

Eastern Taxidermy sent along this photo of Glenn Dennis and his 80 lb. class record striper. The 64 pounder was taken last summer at Orient Pt.

der too now. The fish are taking just about any bait offered which indicates that the fish are hungry, which is why the catches are so good.

The open boat **Capt Bob** called to say that he is changing ports and will be moving to Captree as a charter boat. For further info the Capt says he can be reached at 516-924-9926. Also watch for the boat's ad in the Captree section.

Capt George Porter of the **Brand X** enthusiatically reported super fabulous flounder catches Friday, Saturday and Sunday with over 1000 good keeper fish taken over this 3 day period. Friday saw the best catches volume wise followed closely by Sunday's catch. Saturday had bigger fish as the boat fished off Ram Head Island, Shelter Island. A 3 lb. 4 oz. flattie was boated. George will be fishing around Gardiner's and Orient in the Sound along with Petty's Bight and Truman Beach. Fish are really thick now said George and are mixed fish, mostly from 1 to 2 pounders and an occasional bigger one. They are hitting all baits. By the weekend the boat will be fishing off the Monastery at Gardiner's.

SOUTHOLD

Ace at **Port of Egypt Fishing Station** says that Thursday, Friday and Saturday saw good healthy catches of flounders out of the Orient Station. Fish were at Petty's Bight, Truman Beach and the traps east of the station, fish going up to 2 lbs. On Friday 40 flounders up to 2 lbs. were taken at Truman. Catches averaging 25 to 30 flounders a man with the order of the day at Petty's and the traps. Mussels worked best on a flooding tide. The East Marion windmill was the best area in the bay on the flood to the tune of 20 to 30 keepers a man. Long Beach at Orient State Park on the ebb was a winner also. Some big fish east of Nassau Point and a few mackerel in the traps.

NEW SUFFOLK

Capt Marty's Fishing Station reported okay catches on the weekend even with the water being muddy and grassy. Sal says the fish are definitely in there and are being caught for those willing to stick out the condi-

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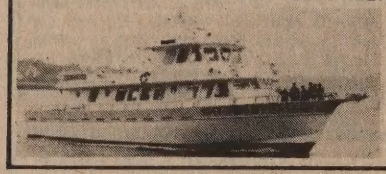

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tions. Worm, mussel and clam are all producing. On the weekend one rental boat had 18 good fish working Nassau Point. Another skiff ended the day with 25 keepers fishing Roses Grove. Another skiff accounted for 30 slightly smaller flounder at South Race. Sal says that with a few days of no wind there should be tremendous catches of flounders again.

MATTITUCK

Capt Jerry McGrath of the charter boat **Nostalgia II** reports that on Friday a party of 2 boated 45 flounder all good sized fish. Eight weighed 2 lbs.. Mussel bait and frozen clam chum were used. Saturday's fishing was slower. 20 flounder were taken. 7 yr. old Eric Mulhollant and 6 yr. old Adam got their first flounder. Capt Jerry asked us to pass on to you that he's taking ½ day charters and has weekend dates still available until May 16th when the boat moves to Montauk.

AQUEBOGUE

Warren's Tackle tells of very good flounder catches in the Sound off Duck Pond and in the bay from Aquebogue on east. These fish are running from ¾ to 1½ lbs. on mussels, worm and clam. A few mackerel in the nets out east.

NOYAC

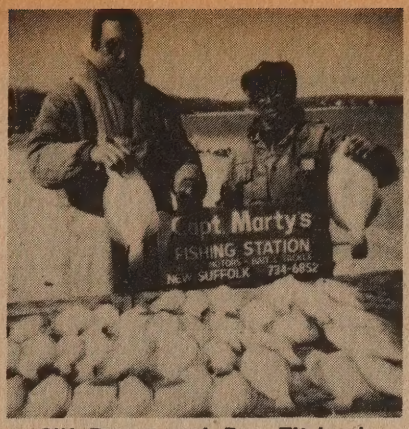
Noyac Marina reports Levittown angler Fred Barreto fished off Jessups off the east side and boated 75 fish up to 2 lbs. using bloods and mussel chum. Tom Loreta of Noyac caught his first flounder of the season this week.

PECONICS

Spec's Bait & Tackle says the wind caused things to slow Friday and Saturday but South Ferry in Sag Harbor and Smith Cove still yielded some fish for those who made the effort. Three anglers fishing on the private boat Kim managed 177 keepers up to 2 lbs. on the ebb using mussels and worms and heavy chumming. Promised Land on the flood produced 29 keepers from 1¼ to over 3 lbs. for Greg Keprek using mussels and mussel chum. Pete Harnisch had a 3 pounder Saturday. Pete is from Commack. Some mackerel in Peconic and Tom heard of a couple of weakfish caught in the Shinnecock Canal at night this past week. Hetty Creek and Towd Creek have been spotty due to the winds. Another passable spot has been Noyac Bay off the Monastery.

THREE MILE HARBOR

Ken at **Three Mile Harbor Fishing Station** tells of good flounder catches inside the harbor on the flats. Mussel



Clif Brown and Ray Fitzhugh with 50 flounder up to 1¾ lbs. taken in South Race on worms and mussels. Photo courtesy of Capt. Marty's Fishing Station.

chum and clam as hook bait is the ticket. A full 5 gallon pail full per boat on Sunday. Fish ran from 1 to 1½ lbs. with no throwbacks. They hit on both tides. Action was generally good all week.

SAG HARBOR

The **Wilhelric II** tells of red hot flounder fishing at Orient and Petty's Bight which have come alive. Catches Friday and Saturday were super, says skipper Capt Artie Lach. Friday's high hook was Peter Kilanowski of Bethpage with 68 flounders up to 2 lbs. Saturday saw Sig Anderson high hook with 53 flounders. Things slowed in the afternoon due to the high winds. The pool fish hit 2 lbs. Clam, mussel and worms all worked well. Artie says the bottom seems to be paved with flounders. A few big flounder have started at Gardiner's on the north side.

Capt Bob of the charter boat **Sundance** called to say the flounder fishing remains good with roughly 100 flatties being taken per trip. Fish are running up to 3 lbs. The boat also had a couple of snowshoes during the week. The cod and pollack action remains good to the east and Bob has several good dates still available but urges that you call early.

Chris at **Bayview Fishing Station** says that the never ending wind put a little bit of a crimp in the flounder catches this week but some good sized fish have been caught outside at Cedar Point, Smith Cove and at South Ferry. Chris expects catches to bounce back once the weather calms down. Some weakfish in the nets at Shelter Island and Gardiner's Bay.

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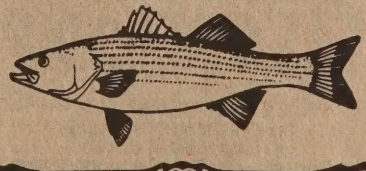

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★ BEST BET ★

FLOUNDER

MT. SINAI HBR.

Dick speaking from **Dick's Sporting Goods** reported some nice big flounder taken by casters from the beach at Miller Place on Friday and Saturday. Sand worms were the ticket. Lots of 1 to 2 lb. fish being taken in the Sound, while there is plenty of action with small fish inside the harbor. Dick added that lobster men have been taking some blackfish in their traps out in deep water, but no word on mackerel.

PORT JEFFERSON

From **Caraftis Fishing Station** John spoke of plenty of flounder in the harbor, although many of the fish are small. Best catches are being made with worms and mussel chum. Big flounder from 1 to 2 lbs. out in the Sound off of Crane's Neck, Old Field Point and Flax Pond. Mussels and worms work best on these fish also. Chumming is important. John said to expect the first arrivals of mackerel any day and he noted that a few blackfish have already been taken outside by flounder fishermen.

KINGS PARK

Helen reported from **OK Bait and Tackle** that although Sunday was quiet due to the Easter holiday, Saturday witnessed several good scores of flounder made out in the Sound. Sal Bruno and his 13-year-old grandson Keith returned with over 100 big flatties which they took on worms and mussels off the Mansion just east of Short Beach. Young Keith led the way with a 3¼ lb. super flattie. Another pair of anglers known only as Mario Reani checked in a catch of 40 flatties in the 1 lb. class using worms and mussel chum. Fishing off of Callahans, Steve and Jerry Delcuore and Tom DiBiase filled a tub with flatties ranging from 1/2 up to 2 lbs. The trio also used worms and mussel chum.

NORTHPORT

Thom at **Bowman's Sport Center** reports that the harbor is loaded with small flounder while there are good numbers of fish in the 1 to 2 lb. class outside in the Sound. Thom suggested the ten foot depths off of Crabmeadow Beach with clams and worms and mussel chum. Some bass in the 3-4 lb. class taken on Rebels at the power plant this past week. A

good supply of white perch remain in residence at the plant also for those using worms.

HUNTINGTON

Capt Bill "Packey" Collins of the **Ever Ready** called to say that both Saturday and Sunday he fished near Lloyd's Neck, where the fishing was good and the pool winner was Aaron Weisbrot of Bayside with a 1½ lb. flounder. The average catch was 12 to 24 fish per man. Sunday's pool was split between Shirley Melito of Huntington and Dorothy Wells of Huntington Sta. both with nearly 1 lb. fish. Packey says he will start hitting the Smithtown area this weekend. He also advises that the boat will not be sailing on May 3rd.

George Valentine, speaking from his **Four Winds Bait and Tackle Shop** spoke of good flounder fishing off of Lloyd's Point, Eaton's Neck and Ashroken with the fish ranging anywhere from throwbacks up to 1½ lbs. Worms and mussels working best as bait, while corn and mussel chum is a big asset. Loads of very small fish in the harbor where, according to George you may have to go through 100 fish to get a dozen keepers. Word of a few bass taken on Rebels at the power plant during the week, but worm fishermen have packed it in.

GLEN COVE

Capt Joe of the **Lady Lil II** called to say that the flounder fishing was good all week closer to the beaches, particularly off Oak Neck. Saturday wa a little slower with the fish a little smaller too. On Sunday the skipper eased into Larchmont Harbor where fares had a good steady pick all day long of ¾ to 1½ lb. fish with fares averaging 20 to 30 fish a man. The pool fish went nearly 2 lbs. Joe said stirring up the bottom is a big help and suggests you bring your own sash weight to stir up your own mud. Catches were made on both tides.

John at **Glen Cove Sport Shop** said that flounder fishing in the area has really opened up with the area from Mott Creek around to Pryble Beach producing plenty of fish up to 8 lbs. in weight. Sand worms taking most of the fish and according to John chum is not necessary. No bass news yet but he expects to hear something soon.

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CITY ISLAND

Capt Dom of the **Apache** reports good flounder fishing to the tune of 15 to 20 keepers a man running from ½ to ¾ lb. with pool fish hitting 1½ lbs. Friday and Saturday was not as good due to the winds but Sunday was excellent with plenty of fish caught at Lloyd's Point and Center Island. The weather is a very important factor, needless to say. All the City Island boats fished the same areas and did equally as well. Dom says the secret is to use a big piece of sand worm and that practically insures a fish will grab it. Signs of mackerel in the Sound.

Capt Joe of the **Ebb Tide II** called to say that he fished Lloyd's and Huntington Harbor on the weekend with very good flounder catches mainly on sand worms. Fish were mixed sizes up to 1½ lbs. Joe also reported birds working and swirls in the Sound, solid indications of mackerel.

Jack of **Jack's Bait and Tackle** reports lots of flounder in the 1/2 to 1 lb. class being taken throughout Eastchester Bay on sand worms and mussel chum. For bass fans, few stripers from shorts up to 4 lbs. taken on worms and 4½" jointed Rebels in Turtle Cove.

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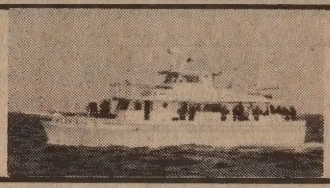

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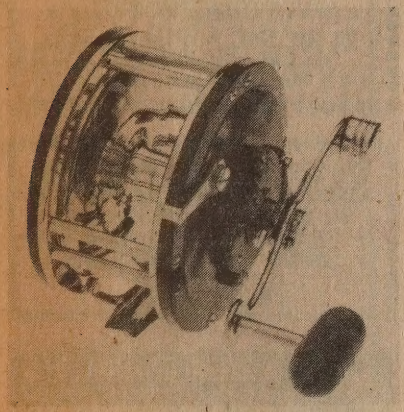
For further information on Sonic Wave marine products, contact Eugene S. Lyman, BH Electronics, Inc., 331 Bremer Bldg., St. Paul, MN 55101; (612) 228-6463.

BH Electronics is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Buckbee-Mears Co., headquartered in St. Paul, Minn.



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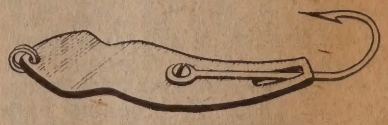

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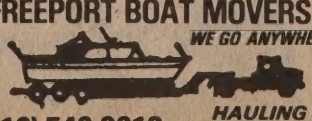

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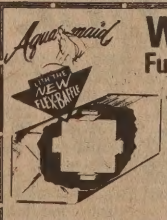

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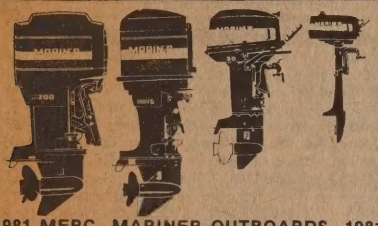

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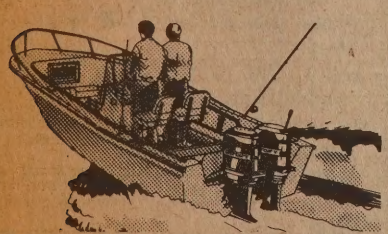

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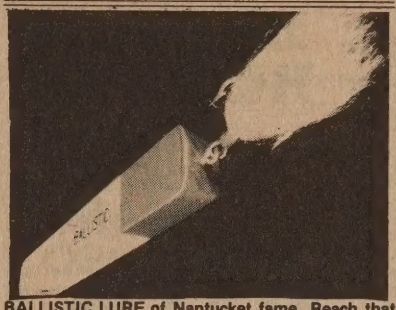

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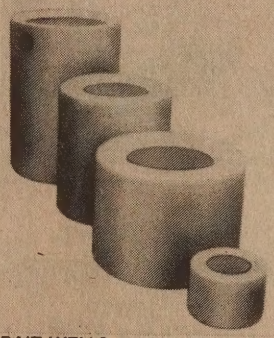

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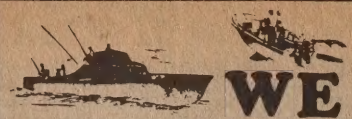

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BOAT INSURANCE—All risk. 12-month policy with unrestricted navigational limits. Extremely competitive rates. Quick quotations. Paul Krause, 145 Higbie Lane, West Islip, N.Y. 11795. 516-587-7837.

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CAPTAIN WANTED
CAPTAIN WANTED
CAPTAIN WANTED
For new 1981 42' Sportfisherman out of Sheepshead Bay. Private use only. Mostly daytime; only on weekends. Fishing background preferred. Phone Mr. Ain, 516-239-1503.

REAL ESTATE

SOUTH SHORE Fishing Station business & equip. for sale. $8500 pays all. Land lease available. Low rent; immed. takeover. Call 516-363-6024 after 6PM.

HAMPTON BAYS: 1 & 2 bdrm housekeeping cottages directly on Tiana Bay—beach, free boats, dock. Free Mooring. Summer weekly $300-$350. CEDARS COTTAGES, 30 Rampasture Rd., Hampton Bays, NY 11946; 516-728-8558; 728-3296.

FOR SALE: Existing small boat Marina, rental skiffs, tackle shop, refrigeration and workshop. South Fork, Eastern L.I. Estate Sale. Owner. 516-324-2550.

AN INVITATION TO JOIN THE . . .
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ADDRESS .....
CITY .....
STATE ..... ZIP .....
Dues are tax deductible.

High Tide Tables

How to use tide tables:

To compute the high tide for the area you wish to fish, simply find the closest area on the conversion tables. Add or subtract the hours and minutes as indicated from that areas station above. Example: "Shinnecock Inlet...–0 50" is listed under "ON SANDY HOOK." –0 50 means you subtract 50 minutes from the times given for the SANDY HOOK STATION for the day you are going fishing. This is the approximate time for the high tide in the area. For low tide, add 6½ hours to this figure.

DAY	SANDY HOOK AM	SANDY HOOK PM	Breakwater Harbor AM	Breakwater Harbor PM	NEW YORK AM	NEW YORK PM	NEW LONDON AM	NEW LONDON PM	WILLETS POINT AM	WILLETS POINT PM	BRIDGE-PORT AM	BRIDGE-PORT PM	NEWPORT AM	NEWPORT PM	DATE
THUR.	10:10	10:25	11:05	11:15	11:00	10:50	—	12:00	1:05	1:35	1:20	1:45	10:20	10:35	4/23
FRI.	10:50	11:10	11:50	—	11:40	11:35	12:05	12:50	1:40	2:15	2:00	2:30	11:05	11:20	4/24
SAT.	11:35	—	12:05	12:35	—	12:25	12:50	1:40	2:25	3:00	2:45	3:20	11:55	—	4/25
SUN.	12:00	1:30	1:55	2:35	1:20	2:15	2:40	3:40	4:15	4:55	4:35	5:10	1:15	1:50	4/26
MON.	1:55	2:30	2:55	3:35	2:15	3:15	3:40	4:40	5:10	5:50	5:30	6:10	2:15	2:55	4/27
TUE.	2:55	3:35	3:55	4:35	3:20	4:15	4:45	5:35	6:10	6:50	6:30	7:05	3:15	3:55	4/28
WED.	4:05	4:45	5:00	5:35	4:35	5:25	5:45	6:25	7:10	7:55	7:30	8:05	4:15	4:45	4/29
THUR.	5:10	5:45	5:55	6:25	5:40	6:20	6:45	7:15	8:15	8:50	8:30	8:55	5:10	5:40	4/30

On SANDY HOOK

STATEN ISLAND	+0 27
ATLANTIC HIGHLANDS	–0 01
Red Bank, Navesink, R.I.	+0 48
Long Branch	–0 34
SHARK RIVER-INLET	–0 18
Shark River Basin	+0 27
MANASQUAN INLET	–0 12
Seaside Park	–0 33
Mantoloking zbridge	+5 34
TOMS RIVER	+4 37
Waretown	+2 33
BARNEGAT LIGHT	–0 20
Manahawkin Bridge	+2 33
Beach Haven	+1 47
LITTLE EGG INLET	–0 01
Seven Islands	+0 12
Graveling Point	+1 05
Mullica River	+1 55
Grassy Bay	+1 08
ABSECON INLET	+0 14
Atlantic City Pier	–0 26
Gt. Egg Harbor Inlet	+0 12
GREAT EGG HARBOR	+0 46
CORSON INLET	+0 09
TOWNESEND INLET	+0 06
HEREFORD INLET	+0 02
Grassy Sound Bridge	+0 45
Cape May Harbor	–0 02
Rehoboth Beach	–0 07
INDIAN RIVER INLET	+0 14
SHINNECOCK INLET	–0 50
Shinnecock Bay	+1 25
East Quogue	+2 45
Shinnecock Canal	+1 18
Indian Reservation	+3 05
MORICHES INLET	–0 56
Smith's Point	+3 28
Harts Cove	+1 30
Pontunck Point	+3 35
Mastic Beach	+3 28
FIRE ISLAND INLET	–0 38
Democrat Point	–0 38
Coast Guard Station	–0 19
Fire Island Light	+0 47
GREAT SOUTH BAY	
Sayville	+3 39
Heckscher State Pk.	+3 20
Bay Shore	+2 23
Babylon	+2 12
Amityville	+2 21
JONES INLET	–0 19
Zachs Bay	+1 25
Seaford Harbor	+2 05
Freeport Creek	+0 34
E. ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 06
Long Beach Bridge	+0 19
ROCKAWAY INLET	–0 00
Beach Ch. Bridge	+0 38
JFK Airport	+0 26

On BRIDGEPORT

Lloyd Point	+0 08
Cold Spring Harbor	+0 08
Bayville Bridge	+0 13
Eatons Neck Point	+0 03
Northport Bay	+0 03
Norwalk Islands	+0 10
Smithtown Bay	–0 03
Cranes Neck Point	+0 05
Port Jefferson Harbor	+0 03
New Haven Harbor	+0 08
Mount Sinai Harbor	–0 08
Herod Point	–0 07
Mattituck Inlet	+0 19
Horton Point	–0 20
Truman Beach	–0 42
Falkner Island	–0 13
Sachem Head	–0 10
Branford Harbor	–0 07
New Haven Harbor	–0 08
Milford Harbor	–0 07
Stratford	+0 27
Shelton	+1 36
Black Rock Harbor	–0 03
Saugatuck River	–0 01
South Norwalk	+0 10
Greens Ledge	–0 01
Stamford	+0 04
Cos Cob Harbor	+0 06
Greenwich	+0 02

On NEW LONDON

Orient Point	+0 27
Little Gull Is. (Race)	+0 12
Greenport	+1 04
Southold	+1 43
New Suffolk	+2 26
South Jamesport	+2 32
Shinnecock Canal	+2 33
Noyack Bay	+2 05
Sag Harbor	+0 59
Gardiners Bay	+0 21
Promised Land	–0 14
Montauk Inlet	–0 25
Montauk Point	–1 13
Niantic	+1 20
Stonington	–0 33
Noank, Mystic River	–0 23
THAMES RIVER	
Smith Cove	–0 01
Norwich	+0 09
CONNECTICUT RIVER	
Saybrook jetty	+1 10
Lyme	+1 24
Essex	+1 38
East Haddam	+2 41
Higganum Creek	+2 54

On WILLETS PT.

Little Neck Bay	–0 10
Execution Light	–0 06
Manhasset Bay	–0 01
Hempstead Harbor	–0 11
City Island	–0 03
Rye Beach	–0 28
Port Chester	–0 09
Mamaroneck	–0 08
New Rocheele	–0 24
Davids Island	–0 02

On B'WATER HB.

CAPE MAY POINT	–0 10
Miami Beach	+1 17
East Point	+0 53
Egg Island Point	+0 33
Cape Henlopen	–0 05
ROOSEVELT INLET	+0 09
Mispillion River Ent.	+0 33
St. Jones River Ent.	+0 57

On NEW YORK

Jersey City	+0 07
Geo. Washington Br.	+0 46
Spuyten Duyvil	+0 58
Ossining	+1 53
Peekskill	+2 24
West Point	+3 16
Newburg	+3 42

On NEWPORT

Sakonnet	–0 10
Tiverton	+0 21
Beavertail Point	–0 02
Prudence Is., Sandy Pt.	+0 10
Bristol	+0 10
Warren	+0 21
Nayett Point	+0 12
Pawtucket	+0 21
East Greenwich	+0 16
Wickford	+0 12
Narragansett Pier	–0 08
Point Judith Harbor	–0 07
BLOCK ISLAND	
Great Salt Pond	+0 05
Old Harbor	–0 14
Watch Hill Point	+0 44

Sunrise/Sunset

4/24	5:07	6:51
4/25	5:05	6:52
4/26	6:03	7:53
4/27	6:01	7:54
4/28	6:00	7:55
4/29	5:58	7:56
4/30	5:57	7:57

Moonrise/Moonset

4/24	11:39 PM	8:36AM
4/25	—	9:25AM
4/26	1:28AM	11:20AM
4/27	2:13AM	12:20 PM
4/28	2:54AM	1:23 PM
4/29	3:32AM	2:30 PM
4/30	4:08AM	3:40 PM

Moon Phases

NEW	1st Qtr.	FULL	2nd Qtr.
4/4	4/11	4/19	4/27

The Original Knight
SOLUNAR TABLES
When To Fish Or Hunt

The schedule of solunar periods for this week as printed below have been taken from the original ***KNIGHT SOLUNAR TABLES.*** Plan your day so that you will be fishing good areas during these times when the fish should be most active. The tables are not a guarantee you will catch fish, however.
The major periods begin at the time shown and last for 1½ to 2 hours thereafter, and are in the bold type face. The minor periods are shorter in duration and lighter type face.

	AM Minor	AM Major	PM Minor	PM Major
Thurs.	7:45	1:35	8:15	2:00
Fri.	8:35	2:25	9:05	2:50
Sat.	9:30	3:20	10:00	3:45
Sun.	11:25	5:15	11:55	5:40
Mon.	—	6:10	12:20	6:35
Tues.	12:50	6:55	1:05	7:20
Wed.	1:35	7:40	1:50	8:10
Thurs.	2:25	8:30	2:40	8:25

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Extra Strong

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Trilene is thin.

Trilene's smaller diameter means less water drag, reduced line belly and increased yardage on the reel. You'll fish a tighter line, have more control over a hooked fish and an extra margin of safety when a big fish makes a long run.

Trilene resists abrasion.

Trilene boasts a tough outer "skin" of abrasion resistant protection. That's a real advantage offshore, where thrashing tails and razor sharp teeth pose a constant threat to the strength of your fishing line.

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Line Booklet
c/o Berkley and Company
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

Berkley®
Spirit Lake, Iowa 51360

*Tensile strength test results available upon request